SUNDAY
January 22, 2023

BENGALURU
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BATTERED JOSHIMATH

Sinking town battles snow

Falling temperatures have worsened the plight of people displaced from their damaged houses

NEWS » PAGE 11

Siddhartha Mukherjee on new cancer cure

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BBC documentary that criticised Modi blocked

NEWS » PAGE 9

India thrashes NZ, seals ODI series

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

Sinkhole appears on Ittamadu road

BENGALURU
A massive sinkhole was detected on Ittamadu Main Road in Banashankari 3rd stage on Friday night following a leak in a pipe of the BWSSB.
» Page 4

Karnataka fastest growing home loan market: SBI

BENGALURU
Karnataka is the fastest growing market for home loans in the entire country for State Bank of India (SBI), and Bengaluru accounts for a lion's share of this business.
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CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 2 & 6
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Ahom burial sites to vie for UNESCO tag

Centre chooses Assam's Charaideo Maidams from 52 sites across the country to be nominated for World Heritage Site status

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The Centre has decided to nominate Assam's Charaideo Maidams – the Ahom equivalent of the ancient Egyptian pyramids – for the UNESCO World Heritage Site status this year.

"There is currently no World Heritage Site in the category of cultural heritage in the northeast. The dossier [to push for the case of the Charaideo Maidams] was prepared in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India," Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose the Maidams, representing the late medieval (13th-19th century CE) mound burial tradition of the Tai Ahom community in Assam, from among 52 sites across the country seeking the World Heritage Site tag.

The Ahom rule lasted for about 600 years until the British annexed Assam in 1826. Charaideo, more than 400 km east of Guwahati, was the first capital of the Ahom dynasty founded by Chao Lung Siu-Ka-Pha in 1253.

Preserved heritage: The Ahom burial mounds in Charaideo district of Assam. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Out of 386 Maidams or Moidams explored so far, 90 royal burials at Charaideo are the best preserved, making them showpieces of mound burial tradition of the Ahoms. The Charaideo Maidams enshrine the mortal remains of the members of the Ahom royalty, who used to be buried with their paraphernalia.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 9

NIA files chargesheet against 20 in Praveen murder case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against 20 accused in the Praveen Nettaru murder case and alleged that the accused formed "secret teams" to carry out killings of its perceived enemies and targets.

Praveen Nettaru, BJP Yuva Morcha member, was killed allegedly by cadres of the Popular Front of India (PFI) on July 26, 2022, at Bellare village in Sullia taluk of Dakshina Kannada district.

Re-registered
The case was initially registered in Bellare police station of Dakshina Kannada and re-registered by the NIA in August, 2022.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

Jammu blasts leave nine civilians injured, spark security scare

Torn apart: A forensic team inspecting vehicles damaged in one of the blasts in the Narwal area of Jammu on Saturday. ANI

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Nine civilians were injured in two separate blasts that occurred within 20 minutes of each other in Jammu's Narwal on Saturday.

The incident has posed a security challenge ahead of Republic Day and Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' rally in Jammu next week.

"The first explosion took place inside a parked vehicle around 11 a.m. in Narwal's Transport Yard area. The area was vacated immediately. As the process of evacuation was completed, another explosion took place just 50 metres away. All the injured are stable," Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 9

NIMHANS study on binge-watching among elderly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A study by NIMHANS on geriatric binge-watching has highlighted the need to promote behavioural strategies for strengthening the healthy use of technology among the elderly.

Technology misuse
Manoj Kumar Sharma, professor at the Department of Clinical Psychology at NIMHANS, who is the lead author of the paper, said the relatively sedentary way of life and its associated psychological factors among the elderly can make them vulnerable to technology misuse and potential problematic binge-watching.

DETAILS ON
» PAGE 8

IISc expert submits report on metro accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) expert, who has completed the investigation into the collapse of a metro reinforcement cage, which claimed the lives of a woman and her two-year-old son, said the incident could have been averted had the structure been supported with the help of a crane or through other safety measures.

J.M. Chandra Kishen, expert from the Civil Engineering Department of IISc, is likely to hold a meeting with the higher-ups of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. next week to discuss the outcome of the investigations and safety measures that need to be followed during construction of huge pillars in the coming days.

The accident happened on January 10 near HBR Layout. The construction of the pillar is part of ORR-Airport metro line. The BMRCL is constructing a 55-km elevated line from Central Silk Board to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) via K.R. Puram, Nagawara and Hebbal.

CONTINUED ON
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Bumper crop: Women of Suvapalle, a village on the boundary of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, taking freshly harvested raddish and sweet potato to be washed in streams nearby before sending it off to the market.

Winter harvest

Entire families of the Araku region in A.P. participate in growing root vegetables and getting the harvest packed for the Friday market

K.R. Deepak
deepak.kr@thehindu.co.in

The fields nestled in the Eastern Ghats range in the Araku region of Andhra Pradesh on the boundary with Odisha are brimming with a bumper harvest of sweet potato and radish this season. Traditionally, these winter crops are harvested between October and March.

Sweet potato is grown in large quantities in the uplands inhabited by tribal communities in a farming practice that is centuries old. The highlands, situated 800 metres to 1,600 metres above the mean sea level, are geographically suited for the cultivation of these root vegetables.

Entire families participate in the laborious process of growing the crop and getting it ready for the market. For sweet potato cultivation, the land is ploughed three or four times. It takes three or four months before the crop is ready for harvest.

The crop has to be packed and ready for transport one day before the weekly Friday shandy (local market) in ArakuThe harvesting begins in the early hours, followed by the washing of the tubers.

Piles of sweet potato and radish are lined up along the fields, waiting to be washed in the streams and canals nearby. Both men and women take turns to complete the task while attending to the children in the family.

Once the vegetables are washed, they are packed in sacks. Balancing the vegetable sacks on their heads, the villagers trek long distances to reach the weekly shandy.

The sweet potato and radish grown in the Araku region and its neighbouring belts are much sought after among wholesale vendors who arrive at the shandy from various parts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. A small heap of sweet potato or radish is sold for ₹20 at the Araku shandy. The local produce is also a favourite among tourists.

Crisp and fresh: The radish grown in the Araku region is much sought after because of the natural farming practices used here.

Team effort: Entire families participate in the process of getting the root vegetables ready for the market.

A good rinse: A stream near the fields comes in handy for washing sweet potatoes.

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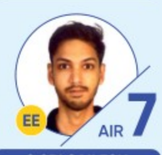
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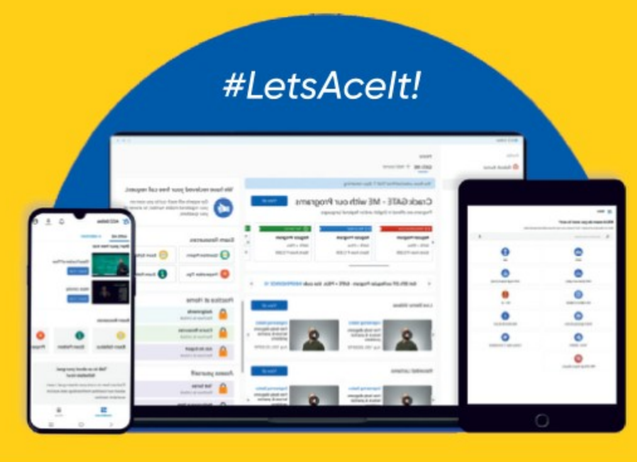

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INBRIEF

Residents hug trees to protest against tree felling

A day after 2,000 students wrote to the Chief Minister opposing the proposed widening of Sankey Tank Bund Road and flyover from T. Chowdaiah Road to 18th Cross, residents on Saturday, as a mark of protest, hugged trees that are slated to be cut for the project. The BBMP recently revived the project of widening the road and to build a 560-metre-long four-lane flyover. The residents have also started an online petition. According to the petition, the civic body has proposed to cut down over 50 heritage trees on the stretch.

BMTC issues reinstating order to dismissed employees

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation issued an order reinstating staff who were dismissed from service for participating in the strike for wage revision during April 2021. The reappointment order was distributed to 54 employees by Transport Minister B. Sriramulu.

Karnataka fastest growing home loan market in India: SBI

State Bank of India's home loan portfolio in the State is ₹69,000 crore in the current fiscal with Bengaluru accounting for ₹50,000 crore

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

SBI's Home Loan Utsav in Bengaluru will conclude on Sunday.

Karnataka is the fastest growing market for home loans in the entire country for State Bank of India (SBI), and Bengaluru accounts for a lion's share of this business.

SBI's home loan portfolio in the State is ₹69,000 crore in the current fiscal with Bengaluru accounting for ₹50,000 crore, S. Radhakrishan, general manager, SBI, told *The Hindu* on Saturday. "Our home loan business is growing at 14%. We are expecting the growth rate to climb to our target of 17%," he added.

According to Sandeep Bhatnagar, GM, the bank has been disbursing home loans amounting to ₹2,000 crore every month in Karnataka. In the first three quarters of the fiscal, the bank's home loan portfolio has grown by ₹7,300 crore, and by the end of the fiscal, it is expected to cross ₹10,000 crore. He said luxury segment has been growing at 100% and the ultra-luxury segment at 113%. "Post-COVID, there is a growing trend that families want to stay together, or in close vicinity. Therefore, many who can afford are looking at large apartments or villas," he said.

SBI is currently holding a home loan utsav at its regional head office on St. Mark's Road in Bengaluru. Around 40 builders are showcasing their home and villa options at the mela where the bank is offering an interest rate concession for spot booking and 100% waiver on the processing fee.

"We believe this edition of our home loan utsav will give a boost to the home loan market in Bengaluru. This is also the right time to invest in a house," Nand Kishore, Chief General Manager, Bengaluru circle, told mediapersons.

The two-day SBI Home Loan Utsav will conclude on January 22.

Writer Roopa Hassan returns royalty cheque to State govt.

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Roopa Hassan, one among seven writers who had earlier this academic year withdrawn permission to include their works in the revised textbooks in Karnataka, has rejected the royalty from the government for her poetry, which was taught to students in this academic year.

She has returned the royalty amount cheque, along with a condemnation letter to the Karnataka Textbook Society (KTS).

Roopa Hassan

Condemnation letter

In her condemnation letter, Roopa Hassan said, "I had given permission to the textbook revision committee in the academic year 2017-18 to include one of my poetry in school textbooks. However, in the academic year 2022-23, Rohith Chakrathirtha-led committee revised the school textbooks against the rules and regulations of National Curriculum Framework 2005. We strongly opposed this unethical and unnecessary revision of school textbooks, and I had withdrawn my permission to include my poetry in the school textbooks.

"I sent my dissent note to the minister concerned and the KTS director, when they asked me to reconsider my decision. However, the Department of School Education and Literacy has set aside all our disapproval, and included our works in the school textbooks against our wishes. It is very condemnable," she wrote.

"They also sent ₹1,500 as royalty through a bank cheque. I rejected this cheque because the department has included my work unilaterally in the school textbook, against my wishes. I condemn this dictatorial attitude of the government and returned the royalty amount cheque to the department concerned," she told *The Hindu*.

Seven writers, including Devanuru Mahadeva, had withdrawn permission to include their works in the revised textbooks, taking exception to 'saffronisation' of textbooks under the Rohith Chakrathirtha-led committee, which had brought in, among others, a speech by RSS founder K.B. Hedgewar as a lesson in class 10 Kannada textbook.

On September 23, 2022, the government issued a circular withdrawing the relevant lessons. However, on October 14, Minister for School Education and Literacy B.C. Nagesh told officials to continue the lessons for this academic year.

Also, many parents demanded that the lessons be continued, resulting in the issuing of another circular on October 28, which stated that it was not practical to drop lessons in the middle of an academic year, and therefore, it would be continued only for this year.

Executive PG programme at IIMB records 100% placement

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 2022-23 batch of the one-year executive PG programme in management (EPGP) at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) recorded 100% placement well before the convocation. Over 90% of the batch was placed within three days of placement week in November 2022 and the rest of the students were placed in a rolling recruitment process, which was completed on Friday, said a release.

Recruiters this year included McKinsey, Bain, Accenture, EY, Genpact, Merilytics, Manyavar, Samsung, Aegon Life, Amadeus, TVS Motors, Nucleus Software, Persistent Systems, and Quantiphi, among others.

The EPGP is a one-year fulltime residential programme for experienced professionals who come from diverse sectors and prepares participants for middle and senior management roles.

Of the 75 students, 70 opted for placements. Two are on a sabbatical, one opted out of placements, and two started their own ventures. One student from last year's batch, who had taken a placement holiday, was also placed along with the current batch, said a release.

Chandan Salla, placement representative from the EPGP class of 2022-23, said: "In spite of the fear about the economic slowdown and global recession, we had a fruitful placement season this year, with record statistics in average and median compensation. We have attracted the highest-ever new recruiters this year with our continuous industry engagement activities throughout the year."

BDA invites regularisation applications

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has invited applications for regularisation of structures that were built on lands notified for formation of Shivaram Karanth Layout on August 23, 2022.

The extent of the land notified is 245 acres and 16 guntas. A release said the owners of the properties can approach the helpdesk on the authority premises to submit applications. The last date to accept applications with relevant documents is January 25.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an Agreement to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners: **Sri.NAVEEN KUMAR** S/o Sri.Champalal, **Sri.NILESH KUMAR**, S/o Sri.Ramesh Kumar, **Smt.BHAGAVANTI DEVI** W/o Sri.Tej Raj, **Smt.VIMALADEVI** W/o Sri.Chandanmal and **Sri.ANIL KUMAR** S/o Sri Heera Chand, all are residing at No.50, Makkala Basavanna Temple Street, Nagarthpet Cross, Bangalore-560002.

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.12/1, (old Nos.12/1 & 12/2), PID No.28-20-12/1, measuring East to West 20 ft and North to South 50 ft, together with exclusive common passage measuring East to West 5 ft and North to South 50 ft, in all measuring 1250 Sq.ft., with a building thereon, situated at Mallikarjunappa Lane, K.R.Setty Pet, Bangalore and bounded on the:

East by : Private property
West by : Property bearing No.12
North by : Road
South by : Property belongs to Sri.Chikka Revanna.

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my client has entered into agreement to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners:(1)**Sri.Vishal Singhal** S/o late Subhash Chand Singhal, (2)**Sri.Deepak Singhal** S/o Sri.Niranjanlal Singhal, (3)**Smt.Geetha Singhal** W/o Sri.Om Prakash, (4)**Sri.Phootermal.G. Jain** S/o Sri.Gokulchand and (5)**Smt.Prabha Devi** W/o Sri.Phootermal G.Jain, residing in the Schedule property.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

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All that piece and parcel of the residential apartment building known as "VIDHYA DEVI NIVAS" comprised of ground, first, second, third and fourth floors, bearing Municipal Nos.3 (PID No.50-2-3), 3/1 (PID No.50-2-3/1), 3/2 (PID No.50-2-3/2) and 3/3 (PID No.50-2-3/3), built in the land/property bearing Municipal No.3, measuring East to West 27ft and North to South 39ft, in all measuring 1053Sq.ft, situated at Rama Iyengar Road, Visweswarapuram, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Conservancy
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North by : Property of T.R.Panduranga Gupta and O.V.Jai Kumar
South by : Property of Ranganath Mudaliar

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

Protest outside NLSIU seeking reservation for State students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Various outfits staged a protest outside the National Law School of India University in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Members of various organisations, including Dalit, farmer, and advocates associations, protested in front of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, on Saturday against the manner in which the varsity has implemented the 25% reservation for Karnataka students.

The protesters raised slogans against NLSIU and demanded immediate implementation of the Karnataka students reservation policy at the university.

In their memorandum to the Chief Justice of India, A.P. Ranganatha, former president, Advocates' Association Bengaluru, and A.N. Gangadharaiah, former general secretary, said: "By adopting a compartmentalised horizontal reservation, NLSIU has defeated the very purpose of introducing domicile reservation for students hailing from Karnataka in NLSIU. Instead of providing domicile reservation to the tune of 25%, in exclusion of students hailing from Karnataka who qualify under the all India quota, NLSIU has rather deceptively merged students who qualify under the all India quota and those who gain admission under the domicile reservation category, and restricted the percentage of students from Karnataka who may gain admission into NLSIU to a maximum of 25%."

They also alleged that NLSIU has opted to make a marked departure from the scheme of domicile reservation followed by other national universities and this has deprived students of Karnataka from gaining admission to NLSIU. "The counselling process for admissions into national law schools for the academic year 2023-24 is under way. However, classes are scheduled to commence only from July 2023. We request you to ensure that the domicile reservation policy followed by NLSIU is in sync with the domicile reservation policies followed by other national law schools across India from this academic year itself, and also ensure that the proportion of students from Karnataka being admitted to NLSIU is not artificially restricted to 25%," the memorandum added.

NLSIU Vice-Chancellor Sudhir Krishnaswamy met the gathering and received their memorandum. "The university fully accomplish the applicable law and decisions of its governing bodies, and we will continue to do so. The memorandum will be placed before the before the governing body for their consideration," an NLSIU statement later said.

The university also released a set of FAQs on its website regarding the issue. "NLSIU reserves 25% of seats for Karnataka students on a horizontal basis. Since the year 2021, the university voluntarily adopted the 25% compartmentalised horizontal reservation for Karnataka students under the NLSIU Inclusion and Expansion Plan 2021-25. Prior to this, no Karnataka student reservation policy was in place at NLSIU between 1988 and 2020," it said.

"From the academic year 2024-25, 135 Karnataka students will be admitted per year to NLSIU, in keeping with an increase to overall student intake. By academic year 2026-27, under the University's Inclusion and Expansion Plan, we aim to ensure that the minimum number of Karnataka students studying law programmes at the University will increase to around 500 students," it stated.

Classifieds

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Fruits of labour: A farmer digs up his field to harvest sweet potato.

Vibrant hues: The purple of the sweet potato crop stands out against the backdrop of paddy fields.

Final steps: The crop cycle for sweet potato is 90 to 120 days. A thorough wash is needed to remove the earth that clings to the root vegetable.

Taking turns: A young farmer keeps his children entertained while his wife cleans the harvested radish.

Bursting with goodness: Sacks filled with sweet potato are ready to be carried to the market.

21-year-old dies in accident on NICE Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 21-year-old student was killed, while her friend riding pillion was injured when a speeding goods vehicle knocked their scooter down at Doddabele junction on NICE road in Kengeri on Friday afternoon.

The deceased Saritha, first year B.Com student, had gone to a temple with her friend Anitha and was returning home on a scooter when the accident occurred. On being hit, Saritha was dragged for a few meters along with the scooter and critically wounded.

The duo was rushed to ESI hospital where Saritha was declared dead.

The Kengeri traffic police have registered a case of death due to negligence against the driver.

Siddaramaiah alleges cover-up in 'Santro' Ravi case

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday alleged that the BJP government was trying to cover-up the case involving alleged racketeer 'Santro' Ravi. Talking to reporters, he described Ravi as a "notorious criminal" allegedly involved in rape, human trafficking, and transfer of officials. "He is being protected fearing that an inquiry against him will expose them," he alleged.

From Page One

NIA files chargesheet against 20 in Praveen Nettaru murder case

"Investigations revealed that the PFI, as part of its agenda to create terror, communal hatred and unrest in society and to further its agenda of establishing Islamic rule by 2047, formed secret teams called Service Teams or Killer Squads to carry out killings of its 'perceived enemies' and targets. These Service Team members were given arms and training in surveillance techniques in order to identify, list out and to mount surveillance on individuals/ leaders belonging to certain communities and groups," said the NIA chargesheet.

On the Nettaru killing, the chargesheet said, "In furtherance of conspiracy meetings by PFI members and leaders held at Bengaluru city, Sullia town and Bellare village, the head of District Service Team Mustafa Paichar was instructed to recce, identify and target a prominent member of a particular community. As per instructions, four persons were recced and identified and among them Praveen Nettaru, who was BJP Yuva Morcha, District Committee Member, was assaulted and killed ..."

Among the chargesheeted accused, Mustafa Paichar, Masud K.A., Kodaje Mohammed Sherif, Abubakkar Siddik, Ummar Farook M.R. and Thufail M.H. are currently absconding, and rewards have been declared for information leading to their arrest, the chargesheet added.

IISc expert submits report on metro accident

Prof. Kishen told *The Hindu*, "The reinforcement pillar that collapsed was 18 metres tall. The steel bars are manufactured in 12 metre length, which means they have to lap steel bars (connecting one rod to another). While doing this, to provide stability to the weak links, guy wires are used, which they have put for reinforcement structures that collapsed. The bar benders do reinforcement tying by using scaffolding. Once they are done with the work, they have to remove the scaffolding to create space for column boxes."

"But while removing the scaffolding, the stability of the reinforcement cage gets distorted. They should have provided a proper support system for the reinforcement cage with the help of a crane or so, which was not done. This resulted in the slow bending of the reinforcement cage putting pressure on the guy wires. One of them got cut and eventually the structure collapsed on the road," he further explained.

After the incident, the broken reinforcement structure was held by a crane.

The weight of reinforcement ranges from 10 to 12 tonnes.

Safety mechanisms

"In the report, I have spelt out reasons for the collapse of the under-construction structure based on the data collected and analysis made. To prevent such incidents, suggestions have also been made about enhancing safety mechanisms that need to be taken in the process of constructing the tall metro pillars or special structures. The need for training engineers, especially when they are new to the construction of such special structures, on safety and making them face examination on safety protocols is also stressed. We are constructing the metro pillars on the roads that carry traffic; there is movement of people nearby the construction sites. Considering these factors, several suggestions have been made," Prof. Kishen said, adding that there is a need for employing construction workers having expertise in constructing these kinds of tall structures, training workers and making them aware about the safety guidelines in the local languages.

Another sinkhole appears on Ittamadu Main Road; the third this month

A BWSSB official said that leak in a sanitary pipe caused the sinkhole; it has been repaired by BWSSB, and the BBMP will asphalt the stretch, says official

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A massive sinkhole was detected on Ittamadu Main Road in Banashankari 3rd stage in south Bengaluru on Friday night following a leak in a pipe of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

This is the third one in January 2023 of a sinkhole on the city's roads. A Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) official said that the sinkhole has been repaired by the BWSSB. Once the work is completed, the BBMP will asphalt the stretch.

"The incident happened near a BWSSB chamber where a pipe line has been leaking, which eventually resulted in a sinkhole on Ittamadu Main Road. Water leakage had loosened the soil, causing a sinkhole. We have inspected the stretch and blocked the road for vehicle movement. We alerted BWSSB engineers who are on the spot to repair the leaking pipe," a BBMP official said.

A BWSSB official said that the preliminary investigation revealed that leak in a sanitary pipe caused a sinkhole. "We are replacing the pipeline now. It is a house sanitary line connection that started leaking," the official said.

The sinkhole on Ittamadu Main Road in Banashankari 3rd stage.

Earlier incidents

On January 12, a motorist lost balance and fell when a sinkhole appeared near Shoolay Circle on Brigade Road. Within a week of this incident, another massive sinkhole appeared in the western part of the city.

In the Brigade Road incident, the BBMP blamed Namma Metro tunnelling work, which is under way below the road, for the sinkhole. The BMRCL filled up the sinkhole with concrete by evening, but insisted that the underground tunnelling work was not responsible for the sinkhole.

Just days after the Brigade Road sinkhole incident, on January 17, a sinkhole appeared at Mahalakshmi Layout in west Bengaluru due to a leak in a water pipe of the BWSSB.

In the last few months, several sinkholes have appeared on Bengaluru roads. Various civic agencies blame each other, exposing their apathy towards the city. A senior BBMP official said that despite regular coordination meetings being conducted between civic agencies, whenever such incidents happen, the blame game starts. "We have clear instructions that whether it is a sinkhole or a road cutting by any agency, that agency will be responsible for resolution of the issues. They have to coordinate with BBMP and take action to resolve it. In the case of sinkholes, so far most of the sinkholes happened due to BWSSB water leakage and BMRCL underground metro construction," the official told *The Hindu*.

Meanwhile, experts said that the agencies do not take loose soil underneath the road seriously whenever they lay water pipes and during underground construction.

BBMP cancels 'OC' for 2,000 flats of apartment complex

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Saturday cancelled the Occupancy Certificate (OC) of the 2,000-unit Sobha City apartment in Thanisandra Main Road, leaving the house owners in the lurch.

BBMP, in an official order, withdrew the OC of Sobha City, a project developed and sold by M/s Sobha Ltd. in Bengaluru. It alleged that the apartment builder had submitted a fake no objection Certificate (NOC) of the Fire Department, and hence, the BBMP withdrew the OC issued earlier to the apartment. "This project has approximately 2,000 flats. The builder, by cheating with forged documents, has obtained building plans and thereby OC from BBMP," RTI activist and Bangalore City Flat Owners' Welfare Association (BCFOWA) president Anil Kalgi alleged.

"On the complaint of one Srinivas Rao Talla, one of the flat owners of the Sobha City, after thorough enquiry, the BBMP has withdrawn all the approvals and Occupancy Certificates issued on the strength of fraudulent documents to Sobha City, making all buildings illegal. Homebuyers' investment dream house is completely washed away," he added.

Group forged my site documents, says MLA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Goolihatti D. Shekhar, MLA for Hosadurga constituency, has filed a complaint with the Sanjaynagar police alleging that a group of 10 persons forged the documents of a 4,000 sq.ft. 'G' category site allotted to him by the Karnataka government.

Mr. Shekhar, in his complaint, has named Byatarayanapura sub-registrar who allegedly registered the plot on the basis of the false documents. Based on the complaint, police registered an FIR against 10 persons charging them for cheating and forgery.

The site was allotted to the MLA in 2015 by the Karnataka government.

Mr. Shekhar, who had complete records of the site allotted in RMV 2nd phase of Lottegollahalli, near Sanjaynagar, was shocked to find that his site is now registered in the name of someone else who has started construction on the plot.

Road rage

Motorists fight amidst the traffic on Indiranagar 100 ft road in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Special court orders release of Roshan Baig's assets

IMA CASE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a relief to former Minister R. Roshan Baig, the special court set up to deal with cases under the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments (KPIDFE) Act has released his assets attached by the State government to recover deposit amounts in the I-Monetary Advisory (IMA) Group scam case.

"The interim order of attachment passed by the government is contrary to Section 3 of the Act and it appears that the government has attached the properties without any proper inquiry and reasons," the court observed while cancelling the government's July 6, 2021, notification of attaching Mr. Baig's assets.

Shridhar Gopalakrishna Bhat, judge of the special court, passed the order while dismissing the petition filed by the Competent Authority (CA), which had sought confirmation of attached assets so that they can be realised for payment of amount to the depositors, who lost their deposits in the scam.

R. Roshan Baig

The government, acting on the CA's recommendation, had attached all the assets, which Mr. Baig had declared along with his nomination paper when he contested elections to the State Assembly in 2018.

The court rejected the CA's contention that Mr. Baig had acted as a "promoter" of IMA Group of companies and hence, attaching his assets is justified when the company has no sufficient assets to repay the depositor's money. Mr. Baig's association with owners of the IMA Group and participation in functions organised by the company might have boosted the confidence of people with IMA Group of companies but on that basis it can't be held that Mr. Baig had acted as a "promoter of IMA Group" under Section 3 of the Act, the court said.

The court also refused to accept CA's claim that unsecured loan amount, shown by Mr. Baig in his asset declaration made during 2018, was received from IMA. The court pointed out that such a claim is not found in the attachment notification and no documents are produced to show that unsecured loan amounts was transferred to Mr. Baig by the company.

The government had attached Mr. Baig's assets properties only after three orders by the High Court in May-June, 2021 questioning non-attaching of his assets even after intimation from the CA for attachment since March 2021.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JAN. 22	
RISE	06:46
SET	18:16
RISE	07:12
SET	18:55
MONDAY, JAN. 23	
RISE	06:46
SET	18:16
RISE	08:08
SET	20:00
TUESDAY, JAN. 24	
RISE	06:46
SET	18:17
RISE	08:58
SET	21:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	30	12
Bengaluru	26	17

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be very cool with shallow fog and mist. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool with haze and mist.

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THE HINDU
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Bar-headed geese seized from actor Darshan's farm

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Forest Department personnel raided the farmhouse of actor Darshan near T. Narsipur and seized four Bar-headed geese on the grounds that he was possessing them in violation of the law.

Mysuru Forest Mobile Squad personnel landed at the farm late on Friday night and confirmed the presence of four Bar-headed geese, according to Bhaskar, Deputy Conservator of Forests in charge of the squad. He said in a video uploaded on social media showed the actor talking about the birds and it went viral following which the Forest Department decided to act. Mr. Bhaskar said the plan was to release the birds in Hadinaru lake - near Nanjangud – which is a sanctuary for migratory birds that fly in during winter. The birds are already under stress and the Forest Department had sought permission from the T. Narsipur court to release them so that they could join the flock, he added.

In addition to these, there were a few exotic birds as well, and Darshan and the manager had been directed to furnish permits and licence issued by the Forest Department to own them, said Mr. Bhaskar. He said the Bar-headed geese fly in from Central Asia and was protected under the Wildlife Protection Act as they are endangered.

Conman issues fake appointment letter of KMF; probe launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Adugodi police are on the lookout for a conman who, posing as a senior officer, issued a fake appointment letter in the name of the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) for a price.

Based on the complaint filed by Lokesh K., superintendent in administration division, the police have registered a case of cheating and forgery against Prakash Munivenkatappa of Doddaguddi.

Mr. Lokesh said that KMF invited applications for direct recruitment for many posts in October last year and held written exams across the city in December 2022. While the recruitment process is still on, a man identifying himself as Charan G.K. walked into KMF head office with a fake recruitment letter for the post of technical officer issued by the Secretary, DPAR, Vidhana Soudha. The letter also had a forged signature and seal of the Director (Administration) of KMF.

Inquiries revealed that Charan was promised the job by Prakash if he paid ₹20 lakh. The official found a WhatsApp conversation between the duo. Mr. Lokesh said that the accused is suspected to have lured many and cheated them and spoilt the name of KMF. "We have some clues about the accused. Efforts are on to track him down and also the victims," a police officer said.

Gym trainer held for snatching chain

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The C.K. Achukattu police on Saturday arrested a 28-year-old gym trainer for allegedly snatching a gold chain worth ₹2.2 lakh from an elderly woman on December 4.

The accused had changed his attire and even reduced weight to escape from police scrutiny. However, following technical leads, the police pinned him down after 45 days and recovered the 44-gram chain from him.

The accused, identified as Manjunatha alias Gym Manja from Katriguppe, told the police his salary was too low and difficult to manage and hence, he decided to earn quick money. As per the plan, he zeroed in on Rukmini from Poornapragna Layout in Banashankari 3rd Stage, while she was returning home from evening walk. On the pretext of enquiring an address, Manjunath approached her and pushed her to the ground before fleeing with the chain.

The accused went home and burnt the clothes he was wearing and changed his attire. He even went around the police station and observed police movements a few times while having tea at a shop, a police officer said. The accused even shed weight to hoodwink the police.

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(Through GOK e–Procurement Portal only)

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3. RFP documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in under login for Contractors: After login to Contractors, please scroll down to the right-side bottom to see List of Tenders, please click there to find the details of RFP and download copy of the tender. The tender document can be downloaded in the portal from 23-01-2023. Only Interested Service Provider who wishes to participate should remit online transaction fee for tender after registering in the portal. The transaction fee is non-refundable.
4. Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16.00 hours on 08-02-2023 and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines.
5. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

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3	Pkg-3	Ward no: 120 (Hoysalanagar) & 119 (New Byappanahalli)	374.85	5.62	As per e-Portal	60 Months
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5	Pkg-5	Ward no : 182 (Shanthi nagar), 183 (Neelasandra) & 184 (Vannarapete)	722.07	10.83	As per e-Portal	60 Months
6	Pkg-6	Ward no : 94 (Hennur) & 95 (Nagawara)	531.98	7.98	As per e-Portal	60 Months
7	Pkg-7	Ward no : 98 (Kacharakanahalli), 99 (HRBR Layout) & 100 (Banasawadi)	792.10	11.88	As per e-Portal	60 Months
8	Pkg-8	Ward no: 96 (Kadugondanahalli), 97 (Venkateshpura) & 101 (Kammanahalli)	635.50	9.53	As per e-Portal	60 Months
9	Pkg-9	Ward no: 102(Lingarajapura) & 103 (Maruthi Seva Nagar)	528.08	7.92	As per e-Portal	60 Months
10	Pkg-10	Ward no: 126(Ramaswamy palya), 127(Jayamahal) & 130 (Bharathi Nagar)	609.88	9.15	As per e-Portal	60 Months
11	Pkg-11	Ward no:131 (Halsur), 129 (Sampangiram nagar), & 128 (Vasanth nagar)	672.74	10.09	As per e-Portal	60 Months
12	Pkg-12	Ward no: 66 (Radhakrishna Temple Ward), 67 (Sanjaya nagar), 70 (Hebbal) & 72 (Ganganagar)	653.47	9.8	As per e-Portal	60 Months
13	Pkg-13	Ward no: 68(V Nagenahalli), 69 (Manorayana Palya), 71 (Chamundi Nagar) & 73 (J C Nagar)	639.80	9.6	As per e-Portal	60 Months
14	Pkg-14	Ward no: 74 (Kavalbyrasandra), 75 (Kushal Nagar) & 76 (Muneshwara Nagar)	498.29	7.47	As per e-Portal	60 Months
15	Pkg-15	Ward no: 77 (Devarajeevana Halli) & 78 (S.K.Garden), 79 (Sagayapuram) & 80 (Pulikeshinagar)	644.07	9.66	As per e-Portal	60 Months
16	Pkg-16	Ward no:132 (Dattatreya temple) & 133 (Gandhinagar)	504.24	7.56	As per e-Portal	60 Months
17	Pkg-17	Ward no: 134 (Subhashnagar), 135 (Okalipuram) & 136 (Binnipete)	671.11	10.07	As per e-Portal	60 Months
18	Pkg-18	Ward no: 137 (Cottonpet) & 138 (Chikpete)	633.01	9.5	As per e-Portal	60 Months
19	Pkg-19	Ward no: 147 (Agrahara Dasarahalli), 148 (Govindhrajanagara), 149 (Kaveripura) & 152 (Moodalapalya)	742.46	11.14	As per e-Portal	60 Months
20	Pkg-20	Ward no:146 (Dr. Rajkumar), 150 (Marenahalli) & 151 (Maruthi Mandira)	580.62	8.71	As per e-Portal	60 Months
21	Pkg-21	Ward no:153 (Nagarabhavi), 154 (Chandra layout) & 155 (Nayandahalli)	571.47	8.57	As per e-Portal	60 Months
22	Pkg-22	Ward no:139 (Dayanandanagara), 140 (Prakashanagara), 142 (Sri Rama mandira) & 143 (Shivanagara)	751.02	11.27	As per e-Portal	60 Months
23	Pkg-23	Ward no:141 (Rajajinagara), 144 (Basaveshwaranagara) & 145 (Kamakshipalya)	574.91	8.62	As per e-Portal	60 Months
24	Pkg-24	Ward no: 59 (Mathikere), 60 (Aramane Nagara) & 61 (Malleshwaram)	658.45	9.88	As per e-Portal	60 Months
25	Pkg-25	Ward no: 62 (Subramanyanagar), 63 (Gayathrinagara), 64 (Kadu Malleshwara) & 65 (Rajmahal Guttahalli)	853.98	12.81	As per e-Portal	60 Months
26	Pkg-26	Ward no: 50 (Marappanapalya), 53 (Nandhini layout) & 54 (Jaymaruthy nagara)	669.14	10.04	As per e-Portal	60 Months
27	Pkg-27	Ward no: 51 (Nagapura), 52 (Mahalakshmi Puram) & 55 (Punith Rajkumar)	606.84	9.1	As per e-Portal	60 Months
28	Pkg-28	Ward no: 56 (Shankarmutt), 57 (Shakthi ganapathi nagar) &58 (Vrushabhavathi nagar)	658.86	9.88	As per e-Portal	60 Months
29	Pkg-29	Ward no: 167 (Jagajeevanaramnagar) & 168 (Padarayanapura)	523.39	7.85	As per e-Portal	60 Months
30	Pkg-30	Ward no: 165 (Chamrajpete) & 166 (Chalavadipalya)	644.17	9.66	As per e-Portal	60 Months
31	Pkg-31	Ward no: 169 (Devaraj URS Nagara) & 170 (Ajadnagara)	500.98	7.51	As per e-Portal	60 Months
32	Pkg-32	Ward no: 171 (Sudham Nagar) & 172 (Dharamarayaswamy Temple)	768.45	11.53	As per e-Portal	60 Months
33	Pkg-33	Ward no: 173 (Sunkenahalli) & 174 (Vishweshwarapuram)	584.13	8.76	As per e-Portal	60 Months
34	Pkg-34	Ward no: 175 (Ashokapillar), 176 (Someshwaranagar) & 177 (Hombegowdanagar)	703.13	10.55	As per e-Portal	60 Months
35	Pkg-35	Ward no: 210 (Basavanagudi), 211 (Hanumanthnagar) & 213 (Srinagar)	565.60	8.48	As per e-Portal	60 Months
36	Pkg-36	Ward no: 212 (Srinivasanagar), 214 (Girinagar), 215 (Katriguppe) & 216 (Vidyapeeta)	759.30	11.39	As per e-Portal	60 Months
37	Pkg-37	Ward no: 156(K.P.Agrahara), 157 (Vijayanagar) & 158 (Hosahalli)	657.99	9.87	As per e-Portal	60 Months
38	Pkg-38	Ward no: 159 (Hampinagara), 160 (Bapoojinagar) & 161 (Attiguppe)	681.69	10.23	As per e-Portal	60 Months
39	Pkg-39	Ward no: 162 (Gali Anjaneya Temple), 163 (Veerabhadranagara) & 164 (Avalahalli)	740.25	11.1	As per e-Portal	60 Months
40	Pkg-40	Ward no: 200 (Yediyur) & 201 (Uma Maheshwara)	437.28	6.56	As per e-Portal	60 Months
41	Pkg-41	Ward no: 202 (Ganesh mandhira) & 203 (Banashankari Temple)	474.33	7.11	As per e-Portal	60 Months
42	Pkg-42	Ward no: 204 (K S Layout). 205 (Vikram nagar) & 206 (Padhmanabha nagar)	594.23	8.91	As per e-Portal	60 Months
43	Pkg-43	Ward no: 207 (Kamakya Nagar), 208 (Deena Dayalu Nagar) & 209 (Hosakerehalli)	567.01	8.51	As per e-Portal	60 Months
44	Pkg-44	Ward no: 194 (Gurappanapalya), 195 (Tilakanagara) & 196(Byrsandra)	585.79	8.79	As per e-Portal	60 Months
45	Pkg-45	Ward no: 197 (Shakambarinagar), 198 (JP Nagar) & 199 (Sarakki)	634.76	9.52	As per e-Portal	60 Months
46	Pkg-46	Ward no: 185 (Ejipura) & 187 (Adugodi)	489.40	7.34	As per e-Portal	60 Months
47	Pkg-47	Ward no: 186 (Koramangala) & 191 (Jakkasandra)	430.29	6.45	As per e-Portal	60 Months
48	Pkg-48	Ward no: 189 (Sudduguntepalya) & 188 (Lakkasandra)	461.89	6.93	As per e-Portal	60 Months
49	Pkg-49	Ward no: 190 (Madiwala), Ward no: 192 (BTM Layout) & 193 (N.S.Palya)	607.79	9.12	As per e-Portal	60 Months
50	Pkg-50	Ward no: 229 (Ibluru), 230 (Agara) & 243 (Koodlu)	482.49	7.24	As per	60 Months e-Portal
51	Pkg-51	Ward no: 231 (M.G.Palya), 232 (HSR-Singasandra) & 233 (Rupena agrahara)	613.78	9.21	As per e-Portal	60 Months
52	Pkg-52	Ward no: 234 (Hongasandra), 235 (Bommanahalli) & 236 (Devara Chikanahalli)	649.31	9.74	As per e-Portal	60 Months
53	Pkg-53	Ward no: 237 (Bilekahalli), 238 (Arakere) & 239 (Hulimavu)	558.47	8.38	As per e-Portal	60 Months
54	Pkg-54	Ward no: 240 (Vinayakanagar), 241 (Puttenahalli-Sarakki lake) & 242 (Jaraganahalli)	554.21	8.31	As per e-Portal	60 Months
55	Pkg-55	Ward no: 217 (Uttarahalli) & 218 (Subramanyapura)	506.91	7.6	As per e-Portal	60 Months
56	Pkg-56	Ward no: 219 (Vasanthpura), 220 (Yelachenahalli) & 221 (Konanakunte)	609.74	9.15	As per e-Portal	60 Months
57	Pkg-57	Ward no: 222 (RBI Layout), 223 (Chunchagatta) & 224 (Anjanapura)	570.50	8.56	As per e-Portal	60 Months
58	Pkg-58	Ward no: 227 (Begur) & 228 (Naganathapura)	491.45	7.37	As per e-Portal	60 Months
59	Pkg-59	Ward no: 225 (Gottigere) & 226 (Kalena agrahara)	526.92	7.9	As per e-Portal	60 Months
60	Pkg-60	Ward no: 16 (Kammagondanahalli), 17 (Shettihalli) & 20 (Mallasandra)	607.74	9.12	As per e-Portal	60 Months
61	Pkg-61	Ward no: 18 (Bagalagunte), 19 (Defence Colony) & 21 (T.Dasarahalli)	540.28	8.1	As per e-Portal	60 Months
62	Pkg-62	Ward no: 22 (Chokkasandra), 23 (Nelagadaranahalli) & 24 (Rajagopalanagara)	552.96	8.29	As per e-Portal	60 Months
63	Pkg-63	Ward no: 25 (Rajeshwari nagara), 26 (Hegganahalli) & 27 (Sunkadakatte)	586.96	8.8	As per e-Portal	60 Months
64	Pkg-64	Ward no: 104 (Kadugodi) & 105 (Belattur)	536.31	8.04	As per e-Portal	60 Months
65	Pkg-65	Ward no: 106 (Hoody), 107 (Garudacharpalya) & 108 (Doddanekkundi)	784.46	11.77	As per e-Portal	60 Months
66	Pkg-66	Ward no: 109 (A.E.C.S Layout) & 110 (Whitefield)	611.29	9.17	As per e-Portal	60 Months
67	Pkg-67	Ward no:114 (Marathalli) & 113 (Munnekolalu)	532.58	7.99	As per e-Portal	60 Months
68	Pkg-68	Ward no: 111 (Hagadur) & 112 (Varthur)	541.20	8.12	As per e-Portal	60 Months
69	Pkg-69	Ward no: 115 (Bellandur) & 116 (Doddakannalli)	524.79	7.87	As per e-Portal	60 Months
70	Pkg-70	Ward no: 81 (Horamavu) & 82 (Babusabpalya)	460.18	6.9	As per e-Portal	60 Months
71	Pkg-71	Ward no: 83 (Kalkere), 84 (Ramamurthy nagara) & 85 (Vijinapura)	607.55	9.11	As per e-Portal	60 Months
72	Pkg-72	Ward no: 86 (KR Puram), 87 (Medahalli) & 88 (Basavanapura)	584.58	8.77	As per e-Portal	60 Months
73	Pkg-73	Ward no: 89 (Devasandra), 90 (Mahadevapura) & 91 (A. Narayanapura)	563.71	8.46	As per e-Portal	60 Months
74	Pkg-74	Ward no: 92 (Vignananagara) & 93 (HAL Airport)	468.69	7.03	As per e-Portal	60 Months
75	Pkg-75	Ward no: 28 (Doddabidarukallu) & 29 (Vidyamanyanagar)	928.74	13.93	As per e-Portal	60 Months
76	Pkg-76	Ward no: 30 (Herohalli) & 31 (Doddagollarahatti)	741.33	11.12	As per e-Portal	60 Months
77	Pkg-77	Ward no: 32 (Ullala) & 33 (Kengeri)	648.48	9.73	As per e-Portal	60 Months
78	Pkg-78	Ward no: 34 (Bandematta) & 35 (Hemmigepura)	869.91	13.05	As per e-Portal	60 Months
79	Pkg-79	Ward no: 37 (Chanakya), 38 (J P Park), 39 (Kanneshwara Rama) & 40 (Veera Madakari)	712.71	10.69	As per e-Portal	60 Months
80	Pkg-80	Ward no: 36 (Chatrapati Shivaji), 41 (Peenya), 42 (Lakshmi Devi Nagara)	611.96	9.18	As per e-Portal	60 Months
81	Pkg-81	Ward no: 43 (Ranadheera Kanteerava), 44 (Veera Sindhura Lakshmana) & 45 (Vijayanagar Krishna Devaraya)	686.94	10.3	As per e-Portal	60 Months
82	Pkg-82	Ward no: 46 (Sir M Vishweshwaraiah) & 47 (Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodayar Park)	722.52	10.84	As per e-Portal	60 Months
83	Pkg-83	Ward no: 48 (Jnana Bharathi) & 49(Rajarajeshwari Nagar)	814.00	12.21	As per e-Portal	60 Months
84	Pkg-84	Ward no: 01 (Kempegowda) & 02 (Chowdeshwari)	414.39	6.22	As per e-Portal	60 Months
85	Pkg-85	Ward no: 03 (Someshwara), 04 (Atturu Layout) & 05 (Yelahanka Satellite Town)	668.76	10.03	As per e-Portal	60 Months
86	Pkg-86	Ward no: 06 (Kogilu) & 07 (Thanisandra)	487.18	7.31	As per e-Portal	60 Months
87	Pkg-87	Ward no: 08 (Jakkur) & 09 (Amruthahalli)	478.69	7.18	As per e-Portal	60 Months
88	Pkg-88	Ward no: 10 (Kempapura), 11 (Byatarayanapura) & 12 (Kodigehalli)	559.21	8.39	As per e-Portal	60 Months
89	Pkg-89	Ward no: 13 (Doddabommasandra), 14 (Vidyaranyapura) & 15 (Kuvempunagara)	581.66	8.72	As per e-Portal	60 Months

NOTE:

1. Pre bid meeting will be held on 27-01-2023 at 15:00 hours in office of the Chief General Manager (Tech) BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Buidling, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth nagar, Bengaluru-560052.
2. Technical qualification documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours on 08-02-2023 and First Folder containing the Techno-Commercial tender will be opened through e-portal only on 10-02-2023 after 16:30 hours at the stipulated venue, in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderer's responsibility to verify the e-procurement portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. E-procurement portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of e-procurement portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the E-Procurement portal only.
5. GST shall be paid separately if applicable.

Time Schedule/Calendar of events:			
1	Last Date & Time for uploading Qualification documents	:	On 08-02-2023 upto 16:00 Hrs
2	Pre Bid Meeting	:	On 27-01-2023 at 15.00 Hrs
3	Opening of Tender	:	On 10-02-2023 at 16.30 Hrs

DIPR/CP/4240/AKAR/22-23

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Tech)
BSWML

Classifieds

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LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

BE/92/5'1" MUM girl wkng MNC seeks kind, broad–minded PQSM upto 33 yrs. Dad–Telugu, Mom–Tamil. Caste no bar. No dowry. sm3dec2022@gmail.com

DOCTOR

PARENTS OF good looking doctor 91 born Gavara Naidu MBBS MS (OBS & GYN) seeks suitable well settled groom (PG doctor/ super speciality) Subsect no bar please mail BHP to doctorrgm@gmail.com

MATCHING HINDU Tamil Doctor Groom for a MBBS DNB OG 29yr158cm Fair Hindu BC Saliyar– Weaving– Works in Pvt Med College Chennai Ct 9444141815

MDS, ORTHODONTICS ,Tamil, Hindu , SC–AD, 27 years, 155 cm Smart Fair girl residing in Bangalore D/o Former Director GOI ,Native of Vellore District seeks suitable Groom. contact: dks956@yahoo.com

HINDU TAMIL 38Y Govt Doctor MD Gynaecology, Chennai CNB prefer Doctor/Engineer/ Businessman Ct 9514518555

ENGINEER

HINDU NADAR Divorced 32yr 1990 M.E IT. Divorced Groom from same Caste& Good Family& Background 9445614753

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

GROOM, CHENNAI working for 32/165, M.E.,Ph.D.GEC, No siblings for parents Hindu AD / Vellalar Settled in Chennai matri9757@gmail.com

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

CSI CHRISTIAN girl 34,167cm Civil Servant (IPOS) working in Karnataka. Seeking any Christian Central Government Group "A"Service like IRS,AAS,IPOS. Contact:9496202446

1985 BORN Doctor working All India Civil Services in Chennai Group A No Sibling Expecting equal Cadre CNB matri9757@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

NAIR GIRL @ Chennai 26/147 BE Chadayam/Chevva Dosam Seeks grooms Nair /menon Family:9840944880/ 9447696424

NAIR GIRLS 35 MD, Makayiram and 30 MBBS, Makam, both working in Delhi, parents settled in Kerala. Contact: 9434289192 (not bureau)

USA BASED Engineer Menon Girl 31 155cm Utthirattathi Engineers / Professionals settled /working in USA preferred Contact +919900551144

VADHOOLA GOTHRAM, Karthika 4th Padam, 12.02.1992 / 165 cm, M.Tech from NUS Singapore, PhD from University of Paris. Currently doing Post Doctorate in Cambridge UK. Seeks Groom from respectable Iyer family. Professionally qualified with clean habits. Max age difference 4 years. Contact: 00971506240520. Email: balasiva@emirates.net.ae

NRI

WELL SETTLED well educated Gujarati Brahmin family seeking alliance for citizen daughter 32, 5ft 5inch working as a Bank Manager with leading bank. Groom preference: 30–38 yrs,5'8 and up, CPA, CA, Dentist, Doctor, Engineer, IT, Pharmacist willing to settle abroad. Caste: Brahmin, Punjabi Hindu, Baniya, Vaishnava, Other state brahmin. Contact only through Whatsapp: +91 8320895478

TAMIL (CNB) 31/163cm Devops Engg Seeks Groom in Ireland. Contact : 94435 64798, 94439 54478

HINDU TAMIL Girl Aged 24, 172 cm Tall, and Computer Science Graduate from a Premier Institute. She is a Software Engineer working in New York City and is Well rounded, Compassionate, Confident, and Intellectual. Seeking a Groom who is a US Citizen, raised in the US, and Currently Living in the US. It is important to her that her Future Partner Shares Similar Values and comes from a Good Family.Drop an Email to: DearPapaPand@gmail.com or Call us +1 862–294–0439

NRI

Suitable NRI Match from any Community for Bengali Brahmin Girl, MS & MBA, Mar 84,5'4", attractive HR Prof Working in Big4. Father-doctor,Mother-retd prof. Call/ Whatsapp- 7439802533

TAMIL

SEEKING Protestant born again and qualified groom for a Christian born again girl- 28yrs, 152cm BDS, MPH: currently working in Delhi. Contact: 98940 40344, 98954 55595.

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

BRIDEGROOM WELL educated well settled age 31 to 35, for a Nadar Christian girl MBA fair, beautiful from a rich family ,working in a Multinational Company with good salary in Chennai. Parents Contact. 9790787919.

SC/AD CSI 38/165 M.Sc., M.P.H, Working as Consultant in Word Bank, Washington DC Seeks Suitable Groom, Well qualified working in USA. Caste Religion No Bar. 98844 39700.

SEEKING CHRISTIAN Born Again, Qualified Groom for a girl, 24yrs/ 162cm, B.Tech, MBA working for S/W Co. in Chennai. Call– 9940655183, WhatsApp– 00971501966730

TAMIL NADAR CSI 31/155cm Fair 60 BE working Chn, seeks Christian well settled boy India/abroad 9840784555

RC NADAR, (Caste No Bar) 32/156, B.Tech., Working in Canada, having Canadian PR. Cell : 75388 02230

SAIVAPILLAI, 31/171 Good Looking, M.E, MNC,Free Lancing 6L/p/a very Fair seeks Groom Abroad or India Pure Veg,Well Qualified or B.E, Income 1L/p/m.Sub–casteNoBar (VEG) only Ct: 9940047272/ 9443282325/ ragavan2207@gmail.com

✔ **HINDU–NADAR** AGE 24,B.Arch.Sathayam–Kumbam,seeks well qualified Employed India/Abroad .9884398959

✔ **PILLAI/ MUDALIAR** B.E/ Kettai / MNC 25 Reputed Business family seeks Alliance Ph : 98400 93322

SC HINDU 33/172 Manager Govt Bank Divorced (Unconsummated Marriage) . Contact: 8939574245

CHETTIAR 27/163 BE Remarriage Ch seeks Prof/Business Groom CNB Chennai. Geetham 9884858014

SPIRITUALLY RENOWNED person seeks alliance for his daughter/ SC/ AD/ 30/ M.Tech/ Bank Officer/ Revathy/ Meenam/ Innocent Divorcee, lived together for 18 days, Divorcees excuse, caste no bar, suitable grooms apply. saadhusundar@gmail.com

CHETTIAR/ MUDALIAR: 27/ 173, V Fair, B.Tech, Affluent Business Family, Coimbatore, seeks suitable groom from similar background Ct. 8939012419 , 9994915406

HINDU NADAR Girl, age 28, Ht 168 cms, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam, M.E., Asst.Professor, Upper middle class seeks equally qualified boy, well settled. Contact: 9626515511.

SEEKING ALLIANCE only from Hindu Vanniyar Doctor grooms (M.B.B.S, MD/MS).Girl MBBS,MS (Opthal) Age 31 yrs.(May 1991)Poorattathi 2 pathamContact 9486726066 Chennai

THULUVA VELLALA Mudaliar Girl 31/ 160cm P.G. Employed in IT, Chennai Kirthigai. Seeks groom Ct: 9445505491

AGE 47, PhD, OBC, central government, good looking, wheatish, never married bride seeks never married, well–educated, employed groom from decent family background. Details can be exchanged upon mutual interest; Contact: 9443553063

HINDU/SC.AD, 27/5'2" MCA, TA @ Infosys, 10L/p.a. Simmam/Magam. Same Caste Groom from Chennai. 9840365908

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR 31/165 Mirugasirisam Raghu in Lagnam, PG Working HR MNC Seeks MS/M.Tech Groom 9176780777

BALIJA NAIDU 34, 165cm, B.com, ML/ BL Inc 75000PM Seeks Suitable Groom.Caste No Bar. 9710093999/ 8939691888

TAMIL

BRIDE GROOM WANTED TAMIL MUSLIM
Age 42/161, B.Com., Fair., Divorcee
No Issues.
Seeking Bridegroom, Age Below 47 years
Ph: 7299780379

GROOM WANTED
VISHWAKARMA (Intercaste Hindu Parents) Smart, Fair, Pretty Girl - Kumbam, Sadhyam, 29/5'.6', BE-ECE, Software Analyst in MNC - 10 L, P.A. Seeks Well Educated, Employed Groom, Any Caste in Hindu.
Ct: 95000 86129
rado5009@yahoo.com

HINDU NADAR 32/155 BE SWE IAM Cyber Security Bangalore AccentureUK. pooram Suitable Groom 9442126376

HINDU SC B.Com 24 Yrs Mirugasirisham / Midhunam,Rich Looking for Govt or MNC,CNB,Chennai Only. 93421 13144

HINDU/SC/AD/30/160 BE, MS in USA, employed in USA H1B visa seeks suitable groom from USA/CANADA/UK or willing to settle in USA/CANADA/UK. Ct: 9945223333

WORKING PROFESSIONAL, Tuluva Vellal Mudaliar Good looking Girl 35 Uthirattathy, Meenam, Family Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor Bridegroom Aged 35–37 Yrs, Employed, Caste no bar. Contact: After 4 PM; 7550245659

28 / FAIR B.Tech MS, Apple USA seeks USA settled groom.Caste no bar. Ph: 94441 23278 / 94441 83145

CHENNAI BASED Yadav, Widow, Unconsummated, Software Engr, Jun'76, young looking, CNB, Veg. Seeks professionaly qualified groom Ct: 8939042966; (No divorcees)

HINDU S.C,AGE:24,B.E.GRADUATE working in IT.Wanted grooms in IT/ Doctor/C.Govt. Ph:9444283352, 22241557

BE MBA , Hindu SC Adi dravida , Female age 29. Working in Accenture. Contact 9444991091. Seeking groom.

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 33-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. 9345855735

MUDALIAR 31/157 MBA,MA Yoga, Fair, Good looking, Reputed family seeks well educated groom CNB. 9841919442

DKV 31/164 fair B.Tech (NIT) MBA (IIT), MNC Chennai seeks bridegroom from educated family. Ct: 9940507235

MUDALIAR 23/157, Beautifull, BE, SWE,TCS,Chennai, 50000.PM,Well settled Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

HINDU SC 29/Divorcee / Issueless / M.E., Teacher (Engg. Graphics) 35,000p.m. Pooradam Star. Seeks Any PG (Employed) Groom Settled in and around Chennai. Ph.9445151615

MUDALIAR /PILLAI 35/154 fair Hastham MCA Uppr Mid Cls Chennai Seeks Prof Quaf Workg in Corp Co 8220757159

MUDALIAR (CNB) 26/V.Fair & Beautiful, MBBS, MS Doing, Chennai, Business Family, Seeks Groom Doctor / Business / Eng – 7305810258

H.GAYATHRI 45, BSc,BEd, R. Harikrishnan, Shenoy Ngr Chennai–30 Dip.Deg. Caste NoBar 9500168187/ 8248990877

MBBS,MD (GENERAL Medicine) Govt., Age 27, Very Fair & well Settled. Need: Dr, BE, Any PG. Ct:9360395175

WANTED UK residing financially well settled bridegroom. Age max.28 years,Tamil IYER For a Northern Ireland employed bride. Kowshiga gothram, Age 24 years. Contact: 95002 59111

RC NADAR Girl M.E, 33/5.7, Fair, Software Engineer seeks BC/FC Groom. Call /whatsApp: 9886888775

Delhi Based 26/153 MSW BPO Girl seeks suitable Groom Ct:9953091596, Subramaniyamnaidu11@gmail.com

✔ **Iyer Girl, Bharadwajam, 1988 born, Mrigasheersham star, PhD, doing post doctoral work in Germany. Looking for well Qualified Boy, well settled in USA/Europe/UK. Please Contact +91 97890 95028**

HINDU SC, Adi Dravida, B.E., 154cm/ 27,MNC 16L pa seeks suitable Alliance from same community 9444155781

PURE VEG Groom w/o Expectation for Girl 27, 5.5 ft. Fair, MSc, BEd, Pvt Schl Job Iyer Punarvasu CNB 8754663375.

TAMIL

GROOM WANTED
DOCTOR MBBS MD
Working in NHS London
38/167 Fair Tamil Protestant CSI Christian Nadar BC
Innocent Divorcee no issues seeks Christian Doctor Groom/well settled Professionals in UK/ India. Caste no bar
Ph: 98435 26370

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
Alliance Invited for Singapore Tamil Muslim Girl 5'7" from Foreign Based Groom.
Contact
9444905982

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

ALLIANCE INVITED for a 46 Year old ,172 cm, 68kg, manager, divorcee 1 month marriage, CNB, no demands Email : hereiam_hi@yahoo.com Ph: 9677776525

DIRECTOR, CEO, Tamil, Malayalam, Christian, Divorcee with 14 years Daughter, Rich & Affluent family 56 years, India / USA, seeks suitable Qualified Bride around 40Yrs. CT: 96009-18842, selsmr@yahoo.co.in

SAIVA PILLAI 34, 5ft 8inch, fair and handsome, BE (Telecom), Officer Indian Army Tech Branch, 24 lacs PA, son of retd army officer looking for affable and well educated girl. Equal and sub caste no bar. 9448307862.

BRIDE WANTED
Professional (Master Mariner) Tamil or English Speaking Gentleman Seeking life partner, Single or with I Child
WhatsApp:
+60122764928
Email: trbsr8@yahoo.com

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

THIYA MDS 32/167, Uthram Third Generation Dentist in 1950 Estabilished clinic looking for MDS/MBBS girl. CT: 98433-98432, 72004-72221.

MALE, DOB 26-05-1991 (Chothi), well educated (B.Tech), MBA (IIM), MS (USA). Looking for well qualified Bride already in / willing to relocate to the USA. +919446533808, +14699398655 (whatsapp), vishnu26va@gmail.com

VELLALA PILLAI 29, software engineer, 172 cm, Bharani, preferred B.Tech & working, TVM, 9446980265.

NRI

FAMILY SEEKS smart good looking girl for South Indian Christian boy age 30 years PM UAE whatsapp +971554722958

TAMIL MUDALIAR (CNB) 31 / 180cm Tech Analyst at Facebook UK earning 100K GBP seeks Bride living in UK. +91 9840856664

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MUDALIYAR, 27, 178 cms, Businessman, B.Tech. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

REDDY, 30, 183 cms, Businessman, BE. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

YADAV, 28, 180 cms, AWS Cloud Engineer, BE. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU, 29, 185 cms, Software Professional, MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

SUNNI MUSLIM, 28, 170 cms, Doctor, MD/MS. Lives in Erode. Parents are Doctors. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a well educated match. Contact: 6366448345

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 22, 157 cms, Teaching Professional, BSc. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

GOUNDER, 27, 157 cms, Doctor, MD in Dermatology. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Employed. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU, 23, 168 cms, Engineer, BE. Lives in USA. Father is a Businessman. Mother is a working professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

KARKATHAR, 22, 160 cms, BS. Lives in USA. Parents are an Entrepreneur. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448343

LINGAYATH, 26, 173 cms, Post graduate. From a Bangalore based high profile family with very good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from the same community in Bangalore. Contact: 6366448346

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TAMIL

HINDU SC ad 27 / 5.3 MBBS Chennai seeks MBBS MD MS Same Caste Mob 9840205160

TELUGU

BALIJA , BE ,MBA (IIM),26/160/22 LPA very fair girl working in top MNC company looking for suitable match from working Professional. Groom from well educated family, teetotaller with clean habits. contact : 9444611307

NAIDU 29/162 Thiruvonam B.Tech seeks suitable groom. Horoscope Whatsapp 9500046027/ krishnah5@hotmail.com

Balija Naidu,1988 Born, Fair, Running her own school at Bengaluru, Family well to do, Wanted Rich Groom Contact: 9444385243

30 YEARS 5.5" Sadhayam Fair Good Looking,B.E Naidu Chennai Girl annulled Marriage Seeks Groom below 36 India / Abroad, CNB Ct: 9500009694

RICH KAMMA Naidu 23/BE, Father Highways & PWD Contractor Affluent Family Seeks Rich Groom. Ct: 7200067015

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Telugu Kapu from West Godavari, Settled in Chennai. 25/162, Fair and Slim Girl, Architect with Business background and Land Lord in Chennai. Looking for Eligible Rich Kapu Groom.
Contact & Whatapp: 9717980171

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM parents seek Allopathic Doctor or Engineer (Oil/Gas/ Petrochem/ MNC) for daughter 30 Yrs Slim, Fair MBBS. M.S., Mob:8056198771.

SMU, Chennai based reputed Business Family seeks Groom for their daughter, 31 /165cm BE., M.S working in Amazon-Polo Alto San francisco, coming to Chennai in February - 2023. Ct: 98841 41181 / 97898 89668.

COSMOPOLITAN

MUSLIM 59 Officer 1.5 LPM Independent Single Healthy needs an Independent Educated Healthy Single – No Bars – No Mediation 8125651881

S.SPECIALTY (GASTRO) DOCTOR (Hindu, Tamil, Kongu Vellalar, Dec 91/ 185 cm/v.fair/ hastham) seeks a tall, v.fair MD / MS / CA/ PG bride (26-28 years). Parents: 93425-29547

DIVORCEE

H'SME NADAR BOY 5'4"/35 B.Tech; Working as Soft Engg in an MNC; Seeking NADAR Fair, Educated reputed family girl. Contact:emphaticway@gmail.com

Divorcee Issueless 39/ 175 cm Businessman Sindhi Chennai based Boy Seeks beautiful, tall 33/ 37 Yrs Educated Hindu Bride. Contact: 9840668886

DOCTOR

VANNIYAKULA CHATHRIYAR 28/177, MDS Asst. Proff, Seeks Dental/ BPT Bride. Ct: 9789859565, 9710330967 (W)

M.S. ORTHO, PDF (Spine) Asst. Prof. 32/176 Working in Govt Medical College seeks bride preferably Doctors from SC Adi - Dravidar. Ct: 9443094995

HINDU SC Govt Doctor,47 unmarried 180 cm seeks doctor bride,CNB Ph:9840374285,Wapp no:7200750219

ENGINEER

28 /5FT 8inch BTech, ME (BITS Pilani) Sr. Mechanical Eng. in Stellantis (MNC) Pune, Caste No Bar, Mob: 9413171014

ENGLISH

Bangalore Research Scientist M Tech Biotechnology 27/180 cm Saiva Pillai seeks suitable Educated Employed Bride. Contact 8220445782

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

SRIVAISHNAVITE 1984 160cm BE 20 Lpa, 2Flats Chennai, clean habits seeks Hindu FC Veg. Minor disablty, NonTamil no bar. 9952034943

NRI

LOOKING FOR a Sunni bride within 32 yrs for US born 36 yr male with bachelors degree and working. Please contact with details, ph no. and pics to mbanue101@gmail.com

NAIDU TELUGU 28/180CM, Puratathi, BTech MS working as Research Engr in Sweden, Contact 9566682220

PUNJABI

Match for Jat Sikh 27,5'11" B.E Thapar University working in MNC 26+LPA Bangalore temporarily on Foreign Assignment Decent Family Urban Rural Property preferred Girl from India Contact 9814050548

TAMIL

TAMIL MUSLIM Doctor age 28, 5.7 fair, reputed family well settled seeks good looking doctor bride wanted. Contact : 98411 38181

CHRISTIAN BOY Nadar 35/184cm Annulment BE MBA Project Manager in Chennai IT salary 2.5 Lac Per Month Well Settled Family seeks Bride Any Degree or Working. WhatsApp 9840377793

TAMIL MUSLIM, 32 yrs, 168 cm, Handsome, Software Engineer in USA. Seeking educated Bride. Ct: 74163–65065

RC (DKV) 34/ 176 BE, IT 1.3L/pm well settled seeks suitable bride. Caste, Religion No bar. Ct: 9884467912

RC 1973 /165cm MA MBA Govt. Asst. Manager 95K/pm Chennai divorce seeks Bride CNB Contact No:–8148842983

Mudaliyar 30Yrs ME., Ph.D poosam fair handsome Boy well educated, well settled family seek Doctor, Engineers from a good family. CT: 9443428948.

HINDU NADAR, First marriage Baskar (36) 175cm, MBA, 1.5L P / Month including business and rent, Suitable bride from Chennai. 9382603744

TAMIL

Brahmin,Author 70 matured, divorced well settled. Widow above 50, decent, Educated. Whats App: 82208 22951

AGE 41,SAIVA Mudaliar, Divorcee, B.E (SW), Abroad, Ct : 9841281948

AGAMUDAIYAR, 33 / 182, B.Tech, Simmam / Pooram, GTR Interior & Construction – Ch, Seeks Suitable Educated Bride. Ct: 9841865651, 9843421312

CHETTIAR 39/173 Slim BTech MS USA Elite Family seeks Er Bride below 35Yrs US/India CNB Geetham 9884858014

BROKERS EXCUSE. Seeking educated professional girl with good family values for Hindu Tamil boy, born Jan 1989, 5"6, IT Professional with Masters degree working in Top MNC in Melbourne. Caste No Bar. WhatsApp Photo & Biodata to 9840509420.

MUDALIAR (CNB) 29/180 Handsome,B.Tech, MS,Project Manager,USA, 100000dollar PA,Affluent Family Seeks Bride USA/Canada 9444039984, 7358510790

USA BASED Software Architect , Age 48, looking for good looking & fair girl, age from 40 to 45 tamil speaking family oriented girl interested to settle in US after marriage. Preferred for widow women. kindly share your bio data with photo to whatsapp number 9080400330.

MUTHURAJA 28/180 B.E, MS (USA) Engineer, USA. Seeks bride in USA or willing to travel USA. Ct: 9444581708

MUDALIYAR 30YRS/MS /Thiruvonam, Meena Rasi working in US in IT Sector Well to Do Family with his Assests Worth in Crores.Seeks Bride 9840456644(only Whats App call), 9840636662

NAIDU, 36, BE, MBA, Bank Officer, Seeks Bride Good Family from South Tamilnadu, Avoid If already contacted. 9443172955

GROOM 41 - 173cm - Employed and Business. Well settled Good family Seeking Bride - caring - educated. Caste no bar- widowed / divorced also welcome. Ph: 88255 55545 email: talentashok500@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR, Nov 1981 born, 5.7', Purattathi, M.Tech Ph.D (IIT), native of Madurai, Clean habits, MNC Bangalore, Divorcee (without issue) seeks suitable family oriented Bride / Divorcee (without issue). Send BHP to: 9843149380

VANNIYAR, 40/173, Dentist, Pvt Clinic, Seeks Educated Unmarried/ Widow/ Divorcee. Caste No Bar 9840072550

30, 174, Wheate, Asst.Dir, MSME, Hasthem, Saiva Vellalah, Same cast, well educated/working Bride. isaikumar@yahoo.com

Engineer IITian 6'2 Mudaliar born in Nov 91 Techinical Lead at Hyderabad in Top MNC Sal 60 >lacs seeks Bride 5' 4 Engineer,CA Doctor. 7382620365

HINDU NADAR, 38/185, M.Tech (IIT Madras), Principal Engineer (Chip Design) in an MNC in Bangalore, eggetarian, seeks educated, never married, suitable bride (30–35 yrs) . Caste No Bar, Ct: 9840117920.

WELL–TO–DO GROOM needs educated/ uneducated Bride, First & Suitable Remarriage, Life companion 7200754946

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR 33/170 Mirugasirisam, M.Sc IT Working in MNC, No Dhosham, Seeks BE/PG Bride. 9176780777.

PILLAI 32/173 Pooram ME ML Advocate Chennai seeks working Pillai/ Mudaliar Bride Geetham 9884858014

1984 BORN MUDALIAR Boy 180cm Specialist Dentist –MDS working for Saudi Govt. 40L/PA seeks suitable Fair Bride 7401452315/ 9444126854/ muppudathi.s@gmail.com

IYER DIVORCEE Boy Vadoolam Thiruvonam 48/168 Director IT MNC Seeks Iyer/ Iyengar Graduate Girl Divorcee/ Widow without Issues. 9841942915.

THONDAI MANDALA Saiva Mudaliar 32 / MS working in Boston seeking a suitable bride in US. Ph 9789037876

HINDU NADAR/ Fair/ Good Looking /11.12.88 / Msc Economic History at LSE (London) , MA Economic and business at Columbia University (USA) Merit Scholarship/ Now working at Chennai/194cm/ Pooradam–2/ Thanusu Rasi/ Kumba lagnam/Two sisters Married/ Own House in Chennai. Seeks an Educated Girl from a Decent Family. Ct: Raghavan 9884411818.

TAMIL

MUDALIAR 29, M.Tech, 178cm, 22 Lacs P.A, Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB.Ct: 8778514465 / 7200866346

HINDU NADAR 27, 175cm, MBBS/MS (Ortho), Income 100000 PM, Seeks Suitable Bride KA.Raman Nadar 93807 91999

WANTED BRIDE with Graduate or Post graduate qualification in any arts or commerce subject. For a doctor 31 years, 167 cm, fair and handsome, having own family hospital at Nagercoil (KKOH). Nanchil nattu Vellalah, non vegetarian, affluent family. Girl should be good looking Hindu girl with decent family background not necessarily rich. Caste no bar. Call 9443131366

AGE 57 Professor 2.5LPM independent Single Healthy would like to have life partner aged 40 –55 an independent Educated Healthy Single widow/Divorcee. caste No Bars. 9444358129

VISWAKARMA TAMIL 30/167 SW Eng Revathi/ME(ph.d)/Fair/RS.6 L PA seeks suitable bride 9444247481/ 8428432112

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR, Divorced, 40 Mirugasiridam PhD TN Govt Job Rs 1.15 p/m 7904550883

AFFLUENT/UPPMDLCLASS HINDU/TAMIL Boy (27/5'7/BE/MNC Blore) well edu fmly seeking enterprising girl from similar background. Caste No–Bar, Plz Call 9449057239

IYER VADAMA Bharathwajam Barani 31 CGI (UK&Ireland, CS(India), MSC Ireland, MBL(India).Employed Ireland. Looking for Bride Prof qualified &Employed in Europe or India (willing to move to UK/Ireland). 9444126063

TAMIL BRAHMIN Vadama Kaushikam Revathi 44/183, CA, partner–leading audit firm, Coimbatore innocent divorcee, honest looking for suitable bride, Subsect no bar. CT: 89403 11123, email: soundarya19801@gmail.com

HINDU PURE Veg Age–44 1st Marriage, M.A. Govt B'Grde – Slry 86K above, Seeks Any Caste Veg Bride or Willing to Veg, below Age 38 only. Ct Whtsp : 8903747433 & 9626370329

WANTED BRIDE / SC/age21–23/ Asthamstar/BE(comp) /MBA/for well settled bride groom/ SC/27/punarpoosam star/BE(mech) &MBA (fin)/ 168 cm/working at MNC/banglore/ salary Rs 80000/month/mskrish64@gmail.com

68 HINDU Yadav Business Good Health Needs Like Minded Life Partner 50-60 to Care Home & Business at Trichy. 97869 85957

HINDU, 56 Yrs, Healthy, Well Settled, Govt. Executive, Separated, seeks Broad minded, Well settled, Independent Lady above 45, as a Soul mate and Life Companion, Caste No Bar Contact: 73970 87032, mail: mducbe18@gmail.com

DKV 33/173 Hastham Manager Govt. Bank seeks suitable bride from educated family. Caste No bar. 9940507235

MUDALIAR 28/170, Handsome,B.Tech,SW E,TCS,Chennai,1200000.PA,Well settled Fmly, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

NAIDU 34/175 MBA, Working in USA, Seeks Educated Girl from decent Family. CNB. Ct: 9444390833

MUDALIAR (CNB) 28/Handsome, B.E, M.S(USA) Oil Manufacturing Industry, BusService, Running Own Schools&College Chennai Only Son, Elite Family Seeks Bride Any degree– 8925019776

HINDU SC Adidravidar, Age 35, MTech Civil Engineer, Thiruvonam Magaram,Working in Dubai. Ct: 9600382674

AGAMUDAI MUDALIAR 34 years 168cms BE Civil engineer Abudhabi 4lakhs/ month Raghu Ketu dosham seeks suitable bride CNB.cont 9003575687

RICH MUDALIAR, (Bus Owner 200 Buses), 28 / BE, Well to do Family Seeks Bride. Ct: 72000 67015

IYER KETTAI 39, B.E, L.L.B., 18L/ Pa, own house, own company, all veg ok. CNB. Ct: 9500456893/ 6369157055

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc(MCA)MNC, IT 24Lakh PA Seeks unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

Iyengar Vadakalai 34/167 Poorattathi Naithruba Kashyabam. MS Bits Pilani, MNC 2L Pm, own House Coimbatore. Seeks Graduate Girl, Kalai & Subsects no bar. Ct: 9789014553, 8056788367.

TAMIL

US CITIZEN Tamil Mudaliyar 61 yr, Divorced No encumbrances Seeks Bride (40–46 yr) Fit educated teetotaler Caste / Lang No bar Email: kanishka1961@gmail.com / pH: +91 9363580695

MUDALIAR BE,CHENNAI 1985,Fair, Well Settled, Any Degree Emp/Unemploy Decent Family. 9952010118, 8610518808

WE ARE looking for an alliance for our elder son, aged 29 years, residing in Chennai, height 6 feet, M.B.A (IIM Ahmedabad), Hindu, Brahmin, Iyer, Haritham, Anusham, Medium complexion. The bride should hail from a decent, educated family and working. Same caste. Non Haritham, No doshas, Should be around 26 to 28 years. Contact with Astrological details to rk0437992@gmail.com

ALLIANCE INVITED for a High Profile well established (Flat construction) family in Chennai is looking for a good looking qualified Brahmin girl (Age 30) for their son 34 years handsome M.S. (USA) Hindu Brahmin (Tanjore Dist.,) Email: srkveecons@gmail.com

ALLIANCE INVITED for 42 yr old bachelor of clean habits CA, employed in Bangalore, Iyer, Haritha gothram from qualified girls from decent family Ct: 9916353313 / 6362305857

BRAHMIN 58 Ys Unmarried Electrical Healthy 40K Seeks Any Pure Veg Family Blw 52 Ys Widow Ok. 9840846524

BRIDE WANTED
A High Profile Christian RC Tamil speaking family- Own business – Educational institution (Chennai based) seeks a good looking, well educated bride with a good family background for their well mannered and family oriented son 29/181cm
Ct: 99406 29732

BRIDE WANTED
Age 41, Vellalar Pillai, BE, ECE, 171/ 68 kg. working as a Software Architect in International Bank, Singapore, Tanjore origin, well settled, wedding function void (annuled). Expected bride with a degree, good family background (caste & status no bar). Contact:
+918220007069

31 / 164cm ME. Assistant Professor Chennai Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Unmarried/ Divorcee- No Issue. Naidu/ Mudaliar/ Pillai/ Chettiar Preferred. Contact: 94430 52596 / 94456 89306

VISWAKARMA, 39yrs /5.10', MBA, Manager, 12 Lacs p.a, Doctor Parents, Divorcee (with son 8 yrs) seeks Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9994535673

CENTRAL GOVT Officer, Well Settled Chennai 56yrs Widower with 13yrs old daughter seeks suitable Life partner Caste, Community No Bar, Spinster, Divorcee, Widow without Encumbrance preferred Contact: 91235 30616

TELUGU

TIRUPUR Naidu Boy 28/180 MBA (IT), Affluent,own business,bride from Any Naidu. 9994581873, 9047081873.

HINDU, KULALAR, 29/174, B.E. Software Engr working in Australia seeks educated Girl from decent family. Caste no bar (excuse SC/ST) , CT: 9443721242. thiruveda@yahoo.co.in

NAIDU 30/174 cm, MS(Engg) working in USA , H1B Visa seeks bride studying/working in USA from Naidu ct.9442026567 or kvr1956@gmail.com

ELITE KAMMA Naidu 28/BE, MS, (3 Spinning Mills) Wind Mills (2 Textile Mills) Rich Family Grooms Seeks Bride. Ct: 72002 59760

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THE HINDU

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INBRIEF

AAP flays BJP for 'lowering the dignity' of PM's office

Aam Aadmi Party leader and former DGP Bhaskar Rao criticised the BJP government in Karnataka for "bringing down the office of the Prime Minister to tahsildar level" in its attempts to gain votes.

He said the State BJP, in its desperate attempt, brought the Prime Minister to distribute title deeds for the beneficiaries, which is essentially the job of the tahsildar and his subordinate staff, in Kalaburagi on Thursday. "If the BJP is serious about getting the Prime Minister to Karnataka, it should have invited him to lay the foundation stone for projects such as Mahadayi or Mekedatu, and not for taluk-level revenue department's routine activity," he said in a press release.

In fact, title deeds should have been distributed a long time back, and the BJP government with its ulterior motives delayed the process. "It is just a gimmick for publicity," he said.

Dasoha Day to be celebrated in novel way in February: CM

Dasoha Day will be celebrated across the State in a unique way next month, said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. The government had earlier announced that the birth anniversary of Shivakumar Swami of Siddangaga Mutt will be celebrated as Dasoha Day.

Talking to reporters in Tumakuru before attending the fourth 'Punya Smarane' of the seer at the mutt, the Chief Minister ruled out giving a holiday since both Basavanna and Shivakumar Swami had propagated that 'Kayaka' (work) is worship. The Chief Minister said the work on the installation of the statue of the seer at his birthplace was being reviewed, and it would be speeded up. Mr. Bommai said the seer did Dasoha by providing free food, healthcare, education, and shelter to children and the tradition was being continued by the mutt.

BJP has long-term plans behind big mobilisation of Lambanis for Modi event

The party has chalked out another event at Suragondanakoppa, a holy place for Lambanis, in Davangere district next month to distribute title deeds

Kumar Buradikatti
KALABURAGI

Beneficiaries: Lambani women showing the land rights certificates received from Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a recent event at Malkhed in Kalaburagi district.

The massive mobilisation of the Lambani community at Malkhed in Sedam taluk of Kalaburagi district, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the distribution of land rights certificates to tanda (Lambani settlements) dwellers on January 19, is part of the saffron party's larger strategy of consolidating the community's support who are an important part of the Scheduled Caste bloc in Karnataka.

It was Lambani votes that played a crucial role in tilting the balance of power in favour of BJP candidate Umesh Jadhav against veteran Congress leader, and currently president of the All India Congress Committee, M. Mallikarjun Kharge, in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. Mr. Kharge had to suffer a humiliating defeat with a margin of over 95,000 votes against Mr. Jadhav in the election.

How castes stack up

In Kalaburagi, Lingayats constitute an estimated 8 lakh voters followed by Dalits. Right Dalits constitute around 3.5 lakh voters as compared to around one lakh Left Dalit voters. Mr. Kharge enjoys overwhelming support from the former community, to which he belongs. There are around one lakh Lambani voters, most of whom backed Mr. Jadhav who belonged to the same community, in the last Lok Sabha election. These are believed to have played a key role in ensuring the defeat of Mr. Kharge.

With a sizable portion of Lingayats already being in its favour, the consolidation of Lambani votes is crucial for the BJP to maintain its dominance. Lambanis are a force to reckon with in the neighbouring Vijayapura district also. They are also in good numbers in Bidar and Raichur districts.

It is in this backdrop that ensuring Mr. Modi's presence in the massive mobilisation of Lambanis at the Malkhed event, where Lambanis from five districts – Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, and Vijayapura – were mobilised, gained prominence. Over 52,000 land rights were distributed to Lambani tanda dwellers at the Malkhed event and the BJP has planned a similar event to be organised at Suragondanakoppa, a holy place for Lambanis, in Davangere district next month to distribute the remaining titles.

"Unlike Lingayats and Vokkaligas who are largely followers of the BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular), respectively, the Lambanis are the followers of their leaders. They tend to vote for their community candidate regardless of which party the candidate represents. In the Chincholi Assembly segment, which has around 30,000 Lambani votes, Mr. Jadhav, who hailed from the same area, has a command over Lambanis," said a political observer who wished to be unidentified.

Cong.'s counter-strategy

As a counter-strategy, the Congress has roped in the former Minister Revu Naik Belamagi, one of the prominent Lambani leaders in the district. It is believed that his joining the Congress would help the party to grab Lambani votes in Kalaburagi Rural, Chittapur, and Gurmitkal constituencies where the community has an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 votes, as Mr. Belamagi enjoys considerable support among the community in the district.

BJP national leadership's interest in Kalaburagi may not be confined to the caste calculations for the Assembly elections, but the long-term calculations of making the going tough for Mr. Kharge at his home turf in 2024.

Zameer terms meeting with KCR a courtesy call

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/MYSURU

B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan

Shivakumar declines to comment on allegations of money being offered to 'a prominent Congress leader' by Telangana Chief Minister

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday declined to comment on allegations that Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has offered ₹500 crore to "a prominent Congress leader" in Karnataka to work against the party's interests in the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections.

Meanwhile, speaking in Mysuru, Congress MLA representing Chamarajpet in Bengaluru and former Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan confirmed his meeting with Mr. Rao, but denied that politics was discussed during the meeting or any money offered.

When his reaction was sought on the meeting, Mr. Shivakumar said in Bengaluru, "I am not aware of any money paid by Bharat Rashtra Samithi's chief and Chief Minister Mr. Rao. You better ask those who paid money and received it. The Congress leader might have met him (Mr. Rao) for personal reasons and I cannot question that."

'Indirect help to BJP'

A couple of days ago, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president A. Revanth Reddy had alleged that the BRS chief was indirectly helping the BJP to win the Assembly elections in the State by offering a huge amount of money to a Congress leader, whom he did not name.

Mr. Khan, who was in Mysuru on Friday for a private programme, said he was taken to meet the Chief Minister of Telangana as a courtesy call during his recent visit to Hyderabad by his long-time friend and the MLA for Tandur Assembly constituency Rohith Reddy.

"But, politics was not discussed during the meeting. He belongs to a different party and I belong to a different party," he said before denying allegations that he had been offered money by the Telangana Chief Minister to work against the Congress.

"If I meet him (Mr. Rao), how can you say that I was offered money? So many people meet him. But the media has chosen to publicise my meeting with him," he said, before adding that he would have replied to the allegations if the Telangana Congress chief had named him.

Jarkiholi vows to 'spend more' to defeat Hebbalkar

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Ramesh Jarkiholi and Lakshmi Hebbalkar

The tug-of-war between BJP MLA and former Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi and Congress MLA Lakshmi Hebbalkar is heating up in Belagavi, with the former stating that he is willing to spend "₹10 crore more" than the latter to defeat her in the Assembly election.

At Sulebavi village in Belagavi Rural constituency, Mr. Jarkiholi said on Friday that he was "responsible for the victory of the Congress legislator" in the last election (when he was in the Congress), but would defeat her this time.

He alleged that she was distributing kitchen appliances costing around ₹3,000. "I urge you not to vote for our candidate if we don't give you ₹6,000," he announced. "If the local MLA is spending money, let us also do the same. Let us spend ₹10 crore more than what she spends," he added.

Congress MLA hits back

Hitting back on Saturday, Ms. Hebbalkar denied distributing gifts to her voters. Kitchen utensils were prizes distributed to women who had won various competitions organised by The Lakshmi Tayi Foundation, she said.

"If they were political gifts, I should have been distributing them equally among men and women," she said. She said Mr. Jarkiholi had the habit of speaking lightly of women. "It seems to be his habit. It is very sad and unfortunate," she said. She urged the Election Commission to act against Mr. Jarkiholi. "He has openly announced that he will give gifts worth ₹6,000 to each voter. He has said he will spend more money than his adversaries. We will see what action the Election Commission of India takes against such claims," she said.

Department signs MoU to train students for competitive exams

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Collegiate and Technical Education and *Spardha Arivu* magazine has entered into an MoU to train students to prepare for competitive exams. The MoU, signed in the presence of Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, intends to prepare final-year students of BA, BCom, BSc, engineering, and diploma courses to face competitive examinations conducted by the UPSC and the SSC.

The MoU has the objective of increasing the success rate of candidates from Karnataka in these exams, the Minister said.

HC directs govt. to pay ₹3 lakh relief for illegal arrest and torture of young advocate by police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Court tells the State police chief to hold departmental inquiry; asks DK Superintendent of Police to supervise the youth's criminal case against police

The High Court of Karnataka directed the State government to pay a compensation of ₹3 lakh to a 23-year-old for violating his personal liberty by arresting him without even registering a First Information Report against him, sans a warrant, and assaulting him at his house, in the police jeep and at Punjalakatte police station in Dakshina Kannada district.

Also, the court directed the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police to initiate a departmental inquiry against Suthesh K.P., sub-inspector of police, Punjalakatte police station, and his cohorts or any other officer, after identifying those who had indulged in the act of illegal arrest and alleged assault.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order on a petition filed by Kuldeep, a resident of Puthila village in Belthangady taluk. The High Court has also given liberty to the petitioner to seek more compensation from the civil court by way of private law remedy.

Also, the High Court directed the district Superintendent of Police to supervise the investigation into the criminal case, registered against the accused police personnel on January 5, after the High Court questioned about non-registration of the FIR against the police based on the complaint lodged by the petitioner on December 9, 2022.

'Megalomaniac' police

The High Court noted that the petitioner, who had registered as an advocate on November 2, 2022, was arrested on December 2, by the police and his personal liberty was "torn into smithereens by a few, megalomaniac and mayhem happy, police personnel in an act of outrage of his human rights" in connection with a complaint arising out of civil dispute of the petitioner with the owners of the adjacent land. "If a young advocate could be treated in the manner of what he has been meted out... a common man will not be able to bear the brunt of repetition of such treatment. It is, therefore, the perpetrators of such illegality and violators of law, as is laid down by the apex court, cannot be left off the hook," the court observed.

The petitioner had obtained an ex-parte temporary injunction from a civil court on December 1, against the owners of his neighbouring land against blocking a pathway. On December 2, he gave a complaint to the police that his neighbour was attempting to erect a gate to close the pathway to the petitioner's land and informed the civil court's order.

Complaint closed

However, the police closed his complaint on the same day stating that it was a civil dispute and came to his house around 8 p.m. on December 2 stating that the landowner had complained that the petitioner had trespassed into their land and stolen the gates. The police allegedly assaulted the petitioner and manhandled his mother, and some of these activities were recorded on a mobile phone by one of his relatives.

The records would reveal that he was assaulted and tortured throughout his travel in the police jeep, and the FIR was registered only subsequently, and he was threatened to give evidence against himself to admit the allegations, the High Court noted, after going through electronic evidences.

"When the State or its agents fear the people, there is liberty; when the people fear the State or its agents, there is tyranny," court observed.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

achchhedyo 'yam adāhyo'yam akledyo'śhoṣhya eva cha
nityaḥ sarva-gataḥ sthāṇur achalo 'yaṁ sanātanaḥ

Shri K.T. NARAYANASWAMY
Chief Engineer BESCOM (Retd.)
22-08-1950 ■ 17-01-2023

A fountainhead of knowledge and always a source of inspiration, he left behind a treasure of memories to cherish, honor and emulate.

In reverence and remembrance
WIFE, DAUGHTERS AND FAMILY

Shankar Mohan steps down as director of Kerala film school

Students of K.R. Narayanan Institute in Kerala have been on a strike since December demanding his resignation, accusing him of caste discrimination and forcing women staff into domestic labour

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

In the eye of the storm over alleged caste discrimination in academia, Shankar Mohan on Saturday stepped down as Director of the K.R. Narayanan Institute of Visual Science and Arts, Thekkumthala, Kottayam.

Students of the institute greeting each other following reports of Shankar Mohan's resignation. VISHNU PRATHAP

Confirming the development, Mr. Mohan maintained that his resignation had nothing to do with the allegations levelled against him. He reiterated his charge of a conspiracy behind the ongoing protests at the institute.

"I am stepping down as my three-year tenure as director of the institute is now over. The resignation letter was submitted to the institute's chairman much earlier," he said.

In a statement, Kerala Higher Education Minister R. Bindu said the State government has accepted Mr. Mohan's resignation and constituted a three-member search committee for identifying the new director.

The protesters, meanwhile, stood firm on their charges against Mr. Mohan and were awaiting for a clarity on the reports.

Students of the State-run film school here have been protesting since December 5, 2022, demanding the resignation of Mr. Mohan over alleged caste discrimination and forcing a group of women workers into domestic labour.

The Kerala government had appointed a three-member committee to inquire into the allegations, followed by another two-member committee.

Though the second committee submitted its report a week ago, the State government is yet to act on the same.

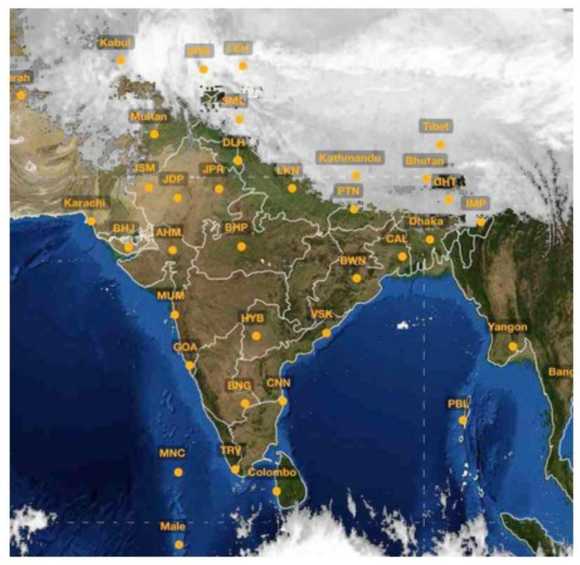
Accused in Tirumala temple drone video case held

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

The police have taken into custody Kiran, an accused in the controversial case relating to the filming of the temple of Lord Venkateswara with a drone camera. The police had registered an FIR on Saturday based on the complaint lodged by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Vigilance Guard Officer G. Bali Reddy. Mr. Reddy, in his complaint, alleged that the accused criminally trespassed the temple premises and caused a security breach.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: No weather warning

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.6	9.4	Kozhikode	—	33.6	22.0
Ahmedabad	—	27.3	10.8	Kurnool	—	31.7	18.9
Aizawl	—	25.6	—	Lucknow	—	24.3	10.4
Allahabad	—	25.1	11.6	Madurai	—	34.2	20.4
Bengaluru	—	26.4	16.6	Mangaluru	—	32.4	20.0
Bhopal	—	—	12.4	Mumbai	—	28.8	17.6
Bhubaneswar	—	30.7	17.5	Mysuru	—	30.6	12.2
Chandigarh	—	23.3	6.5	New Delhi	—	23.3	6.2
Chennai	0.4	30.2	23.0	Patna	0.2	24.6	10.6
Coimbatore	—	29.8	18.8	Port Blair	—	30.2	24.8
Dehradun	—	22.9	6.2	Puducherry	—	31.1	19.8
Gangtok	—	13.4	4.3	Pune	—	31.0	14.4
Goa	—	33.0	18.8	Raipur	—	30.8	17.2
Guwahati	—	25.7	9.4	Ranchi	—	27.6	13.1
Hubballi	—	32.0	16.0	Shillong	—	16.8	4.9
Hyderabad	—	29.7	18.2	Shimla	1	13.8	4.4
Imphal	—	24.6	2.4	Srinagar	3.8	5.4	0.2
Jaipur	—	21.8	8.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.5	20.6
Kochi	—	32.0	22.2	Tiruchi	—	31.1	21.0
Kohima	—	16.4	4.2	Vijayawada	—	30.0	21.0
Kolkata	—	26.7	12.0	Visakhapatnam	—	29.5	22.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	24	42	216	168	
Bengaluru	7	51	22	80	86	
Chennai	22	36	42	215	131	
Delhi	11	172	78	372	261	
Hyderabad	—	46	35	155	145	
Kolkata	7	31	104	363	254	
Lucknow	16	52	162	305	235	
Mumbai	74	279	3	292	158	
Pune	117	171	111	187	119	
Visakhapatnam	4	39	32	196	136	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bettiah, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 426 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

NIMHANS publishes study on binge-watching among elderly

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A NIMHANS case study published in the *Journal of Geriatric Mental Health* has provided insights into the motives of the elderly for binge-watching.

It highlights the need to promote behavioural strategies for strengthening the healthy use of technology among the elderly, allowing them to age healthily with advancing technologies.

The case study titled "Understanding geriatric binge-watching from a case-based perspective" published on January 20 illustrates the mediating role of psychological factors in binge-watching among the elderly as well as seeking consultation for its management.

The study highlights need to promote behavioural strategies for strengthening the healthy use of technology. ISTOCK

Sedentary lifestyle

Manoj Kumar Sharma, Professor at the Department of Clinical Psychology at NIMHANS, who is the lead author of the paper, told *The Hindu* that the relatively sedentary way of life and its associated psychological factors among the elderly can make them vulnerable to technology misuse and potential problematic binge-watching.

Dr. Sharma, who also heads the Service for Healthy Use of Technology (SHUT) Clinic at NIMHANS, said he has seen three such cases.

"In this paper, we describe the case of a 72-year-old male professional who sought help to manage problematic binge-watching of teleseries. The clinical evaluation highlighted the mediating role of motivation factors (need for self-absorbing activities, compensatory motivation to manage low mood and loneliness) in binge-watching."

The association of binge-watching with loneliness and anxiety further contributes to increased binge-watching to overcome negative mood states, he said.

After psychotherapy sessions, which also involved his wife for couple-coping enhancement, he showed a reduction in engagement with online self-absorbing activities and improvement in marital life, he said.

New phenomenon

Pointing out that binge-watching is defined as watching two to six episodes of the same TV show in one sitting, the doctor said it was a relatively new phenomenon owing to the rising number of over-the-top or video-on-demand platforms, increasingly observed in adolescents and young adults.

A similar trend has also been observed among adults who use binge-watching as a method of distraction from daily stressors of life, to promote a feeling of well-being and to overcome loneliness.

Technology has become an important modality to fulfil interpersonal and social needs among the elderly. However, the excessive use of technology can further deepen social isolation among the elderly and this phenomenon remains unexplored, he said.

Dr. Sharma said there was a great potential for binge-watching to become an addictive behaviour if used regularly.

In addition, binge-watching is associated with adverse health consequences, especially those related to noncommunicable diseases.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ., ಮಬದಕಾನಿ
ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 3 ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ, ತಾ : ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಜಿ : ಧಾರವಾಡ 580023
ಫೋನ್ : 0836–2315225 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 2315226 e-mail : eemrbcc3byt@gmail.com
ಸಂ.ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ಮಬದವಿ–3/ಎ.ಇ–3/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ/2022–23/2651 ದಿನಾಂಕ:21/01/2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್ ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಂ.3, ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ 4701 SCP TSP ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ ಅಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂಬರಿನ 03 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಏಕಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Work Indent No : 35531, 35536 & 35538
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **25** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು
ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **25000** ಗಳಿಂದ ರೂ. **47900** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು
ಸೂಚನೆ : 35538 (ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06/02/2023** ರ 4.00 pm ತನಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **08/02/2023** ರಂದು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ: 11.00 am ರಿಂದ. ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿವಾರು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬಸೈಟ್ ಮುಖೇನ **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836–2315225 ನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.3
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಧಾ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/997/2022–23 ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ

ವಿಜಯನಗರ ಶ್ರೀಕೃಷ್ಣದೇವರಾಯ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ
ಜ್ಞಾನಸಾಗರ ಆವರಣ, ವಿನಾಯಕನಗರ, ಕಂಟೋನ್ಮೆಂಟ್, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ–583105.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08392–242703, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08392– 242806
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ವಿಶ್ರೀಕೃವಿವಿ/CEMARF/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2022–23/09 ದಿನಾಂಕ:20.01.2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ವಿಜಯನಗರ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೃಷ್ಣದೇವರಾಯ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯವು ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: 01) Supply of equipments to the Centre of Excellence for multidisciplinary Advanced Research Facility (CEMARF), Department of Studies & Research in Biotechnology, Zoology, Micrabiology, Physics, Chemistry at Main campus and Department of applied Geology and mineral processing at PG Center, Nandihalli of Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Jnana Sagara Campus, Ballari. ರೂ.77,16,157/– ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.02.2023** ಸಂಜೆ 05.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಪಡೆದು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು, ವಿ.ಶ್ರೀ.ಕೃ. ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.
ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ/839/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ
BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY
Office of the Registrar, Central College Campus, Dr. B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru – 560 001.Ph.No.080-22961016 / 22131385, E-mail: registrarbcu@gmail.com

Indent No: BCU/2022-23/IND42 Date: 20-01-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement portal only)

Name of the work	**Providing and Supply of Sports Kits to Physical Education Department, Central College Campus, Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru**
EMD	**Rs. 63,000/-**
Last Date For Queries	**27.01.2023 Up to 12.00hrs.**
Pre bid meeting date and place	**01.02.2023 at 11.00 hrs Registrar's Office, Central College Campus, Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru**
Last date for submission of Tender	**06.02.2023 Up to 16.00 hrs.**
Opening of the Technical Bid	**07.02.2023 at 16.30 hrs.**
Opening of the Financial Bid	**09.02.2023 at 16.00hrs.**

Note: Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.
DIPR/CP/4233/SSC/2022-23 **Registrar**

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, HAVERI – 581 110
Website: http// www.havericity.mrc.gov.in Phone: 08375–232444
E-mail: itstaff_ulb_haveri@yahoo.com Janahita Help line:080375–23108108
Dist Haveri State Karnataka
REF NO:CMCH/CIVIL/CR-/2022-23 Date:19-01-2023

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTECE

The Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Haveri (Civil Works) invites tenders in 15 th Finance **2020-21, 2021-22** and **2022-23** from register eligible Contractors as follows Tender documents may be downloaded from the **e-procurement portal, https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Tenders must be electronically submitted (online, through e-procurement portal) The calander of tender events are as follows

(1) Last date for Online submission Tender:**20-02-2023** up to **11.00** a.m. **(2)** Last date for Opening of Tender:**21-02-2023** at **5.00** p.m.

Brief Description (1) Laying of **250** mm Dia Di Pipe Line From Valmiki Circle to Nethaji Nagar OHT in Haveri City Ilmits (Chainege **00-1650** mtr),**Estimate cost lakhs 96.25**, **EMD(in Rupees) 240650/-, Work Complition 03** months**. Brief Description (2)** Laying of **250** mm Dia DI Pipe Line From Valmiki Circle to Nethaji Nagar OHT in Haveri City limits (Chainege: **1650-2700** mtr), **Estimate cost lakhs 90.00, EMD(in Rupees) 225000/-, Work Complition 03** months. **Brief Description (3)** Revised Electrical and Mechanical Rehabitation works for Heggere Lake, **Estimate cost lakhs 95.40**, **EMD(in Rupees) 238500/-**, **Work Complition03 months**

Sd/- Municipal commissioner, CMC, Haveri **Sd/- Municipal President, CMC, Haveri**
DIPR/HAVERI/488/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-procurement mode only)

No: SEE/EE/Tr/W&M/DVG/AEE-1/F-114/22-23/Cys-132 Date: 21.01.2023

KPTCL invites E-Tenders in the prescribed from Reputed Electrical Contractor possessing Super Grade Electrical Contractor License for the following works on Partial Turnkey Basis.

1. Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/22-23/81, Dated: 13.01.2023,** Tender for Providing 2 Nos. of 11 KV PCVCB breaker at 66/11 KV MUSS Kadajji in TL & SS Division KPTCL, Davanagere for bifurcation of over loaded feeders.

2. Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/22-23/82, Dated: 17.01.2023,** Tender Providing Two Nos. of PCVCB 11 KV Breakers at 66/11KV MUSS Mellekatte in TL & SS Division Davanagere for bifurcation of over loaded Feeders.

3. Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/22-23/80, Dated: 13.01.2023,** Tender for Providing Two Nos. of PCVCB 11 KV Breakers at 66/11KV MUSS ATTIGERE in TL & SS Division Davanagere for bifurcation of over loaded Feeders.

4. Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/22-23/85, Dated: 20.01.2023,** Tender for Providing 2 Nos. of 11 KV MCVCB breaker at 66/11 KV MUSS AVARAGERE in TL & SS Division KPTCL, Davanagere for bifurcation of over loaded feeders.

Tenders will be accepted through e-Procurement Mode Only. For Further details, prospective Bidders are advised to log on to website: **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or **https://www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** & click on to hyperlink **'e-procurernent-kptcl'** to participate in e-procurernent portal on or after **23.01.2023.**

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No. 74 / OMC **Date: 20.01.2023**

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Sl. No.	Name of the Posts	Scale of Pay (in Rs.)	Initial Basic Pay (in Rs.)	No. of Posts Reserved for			Total posts	Age as on 31.12.2022
				SC	SEBC	UR		
1	Addl. General Manager (Contract & Procurement), E-6 grade	1,23,100/- to 2,15,900/-	1,23,100/-	--	--	01	01	Not above 50 years
2	Dy.General Manager (Contract & Procurement), E-5 grade	78,800/- to 2,09,200/-	1,05,900/-	--	--	01	01	Not above 44 years
3	Sr. Manager (Contract & Procurement), E-4 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/-	91,100/-	--	--	01	01	Not above 40 years
4	Manager (Contract & Procurement), E-3 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/-	78,500/-	01	01	01	03	Not above 38 years
TOTAL							06	

Interested eligible candidates are advised to download the application format from OMC website:**http://omcltd.in** and submit the same duly filled in & signed along with attested copies of Certificates, Mark sheets, Experience Certificate etc. in support of their eligibility by **Speed Post/Courier** in a cover superscribed **"APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF ……"** so as to reach the **General Manager (P&A),** Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd., OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001 by **13.02.2023** positively. Applications received after the last date due to delay in postal/courier or any other reason shall not be entertained and will be rejected.

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Sd/-
General Manager (P&A)
CAD-4589: OIPR-30005/11/0202/2223

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Smt. Saroja Kantharaj W/o Kantharaj.K. R/a Tumakur City, Vidyanagara Extension, Grape Garden, Behind Water Tank, residing in House name "Dhare" do here by solemnly affirm and state oath as that earlier in my S.S.L.C. Marks Card and in Pass Port my name has been mentioned as "Saroja". But after my marriage I have changed my name to my true, correct and continue my name as **Saroja Kantharaj (Correct name)** only in all their future records, deeds, writings, proceedings, transactions private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever vide affidavit sworn before Advocate and Notary S.V.Sudhamani on 20.01.2023.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hassan
IFT No.29/2022-23, Dated: 20.01.2023

Short term tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in two cover system through e-procurement portal of GOK (website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan and Chikkamagalur District works as per SBD-KW-1,2 & 3 Maximum Amount put to tender is Rs.84.44 lakhs & Minimum amount put to tender Rs.3.01 lakhs.The last date of receipt of tender is 02-02-2023 upto 17.00 hours. Further detail can be had from E-Proc portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/989/2022–23

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RE-TENDER NOTICE FOR NATA 2023 EXAMINATION

Council of Architecture invites sealed Bids (Technical & Financial) from reputed Service Providers adequately experienced and equipped with latest software, web-based technologies and sufficient infrastructure for conduct of online National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) 2023 in the country for the Academic Session 2023-24. NATA 2023 is proposed to be conducted thrice in two sessions during March to July, 2023 as a comprehensive Computer Based Aptitude test at the test centers, on an all-India basis and also at select international cities.

For Tender document & details, please visit "Tenders" link at Council's website **www.coa.gov.in.** The last date of receipt for Sealed Tenders complete in all respect is upto 15:00 Hours of **February 10, 2023.**

New Delhi
January 20, 2023 **Registrar**

From Page One

Ahom burial sites to vie for UNESCO tag

After the 18th century, the Ahom rulers adopted the Hindu method of cremation and began entombing the cremated bones and ashes in a Maidam at Charaideo.

"The nomination of the Charaideo Maidams has attained significance at a time when the country is celebrating the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Barphukan," Mr. Sarma said. Lachit Barphukan was a legendary Ahom general who fought the Mughals in 1671.

Jammu blasts leave nine civilians injured

The police could not immediately divulge the details about the nature of the blasts. A forensic team lifted traces of explosives from the spot to determine if it was an improvised explosive device (IED) with a timer or a sticky bomb, officials said.

"We will share the facts with you. The blasts took place within 20 minutes," Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Shakti Pathak said.

These blasts took place amid the tight security arrangements made in the wake of upcoming Republic Day functions and Rahul Gandhi's visit to Jammu on January 23 as part of his 'Bharat Jodo yatra' campaign.

Earlier this month, militants killed seven civilians in the Jammu province's Rajouri.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was briefed by top police officials about the incident. He called for "urgent steps to identify and take action against those responsible". "Such dastardly acts highlight the desperation and cowardice of those responsible. No efforts should be spared to bring the perpetrators to justice," he said. He announced a relief of ₹50,000 for those injured.

'China building new dam in Tibet near Indian border'

In addition to using water as leverage, the possibility of a military establishment near the tri-junction cannot be ruled out as China had developed the same in Yarlung Zangbo, say sources

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In a development that is a matter of concern to India and Nepal, China is constructing a dam on the Mabja Zangbo river in Tibet, close to the tri-junction, satellite imagery has revealed. The dam is around 16 km north of the tri-junction and is opposite the Kalapani area of Uttarakhand, according to sources in the security establishment.

The Mabja Zangbo originates in the Nagari county of Tibet, flows through Nepal into the Ghaghara river before joining the Ganga in India.

In a tweet on January 19, Damien Symon, a geospatial intelligence researcher at Intel Lab as per his Twitter profile, posted satellite images of the dam's construction. The images show the activity since May 2021 in the Burang county of Tibet that shares its border with Nepal.

"Since early 2021, China has been constructing a dam on the Mabja Zangbo river just a few kilometres north of the tri-junction border with India and Nepal. While the structure isn't complete, the project will raise concerns regarding China's future control on water in the region," Mr. Symon said in the tweet. The images show the formation of an embankment type dam with a reservoir.

Under wraps: A satellite image posted on Twitter by Damien Symon showing work on a dam by China near the tri-junction.

In addition to using water as leverage, the possibility of a military establishment by China near the tri-junction cannot be ruled out as the country had developed the same in the Yarlung Zangbo river near Arunachal Pradesh, the sources said.

A source stated that China could use this dam to not only divert but also store water which could lead to a scarcity in the regions dependent on the Mabja Zangbo river as also lead to lower water levels in rivers such as the Ghaghara and the Karnali in Nepal. Dams close to the border could be used by China to strengthen its claim on the disputed areas in the region, the source added.

The Yarlung Zangbo, as the Brahmaputra is known in Tibet, originates in the Himalayas in Tibet, enters India in Arunachal Pradesh, passes through Assam and then Bangladesh, before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.

In 2021, China announced that it would construct a massive dam on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo to generate up to 70 GW of power, three times that of the country's Three Gorges dam, which is the world's largest hydropower plant in terms of installed capacity. This was among several other hydropower projects announced by China to generate clean energy and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

ISF workers clash with Trinamool, police; 17 arrested

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Violence erupted at Bhangar in South 24 Parganas district and in Kolkata on Saturday as supporters of the Indian Secular Front (ISF) clashed with the Trinamool Congress and the police.

Supporters of the ISF had gathered on Saturday morning at Bhangar to participate in a rally in Kolkata to observe the foundation day of the party when violence broke out during the clash between the supporters of both parties.

The ISF supporters alleged that members of the Trinamool Congress, led by Arabul Islam, attacked them.

For several minutes, the supporters of both parties hurled each other with stones, and chased each other with sticks. Shops and commercial establishments were also attacked at Bhangar.

Continued chaos

The violence at Bhangar spilled to Esplanade in the heart of Kolkata when the ISF supporters led by its MLA Naushad Siddique arrived at the rally venue.

A policeman firing teargas shells during clashes with ISF members on Saturday. PTI

Mr. Siddique and the ISF supporters held demonstrations demanding the arrest of Arabul Islam. The situation turned volatile and soon the supporters of ISF blocked traffic. There was chaos for almost half an hour until police personnel arrived on the spot.

The police resorted to lathi charge and fired tear gas shells in an attempt to disperse the mob. The police also dragged Mr. Siddique into a vehicle and later arrested him.

Esplanade looked like a battle zone with pitched battles between the police and the ISF supporters. A police control room was also attacked by the ISF supporters.

India's legal landscape changed a lot, says CJI

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud on Saturday said that India's legal landscape has undergone a significant change in the recent decades in favour of removing strangulating regulations, augmenting consumer welfare and supporting commercial transactions.

While delivering the 18th Nani Palkhivala Memorial Lecture in Mumbai, the CJI said, "The Basic Structure of the Indian Constitution guides and gives certain direction to its interpreters and implementers, when the path is convoluted. The craftsmanship of a judge lies in interpreting the text of the Constitution with the changing times while keeping its soul intact."

Talking about On Palkhivala, an eminent jurist, he said, "He dedicated his life to preserve the rights given in the Constitution."

BBC documentary critical of Prime Minister blocked by I&B Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued orders to block multiple YouTube videos of the first episode of the BBC documentary, "India: the Modi question", as well as more than 50 tweets with links to access the videos.

Opposition leaders have accused the government of imposing censorship through its orders.

The directions were reportedly issued by I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra on Friday, using emergency powers under the Information Technology Rules, 2021. Both YouTube and Twitter have complied with the directions, said a source.

'Propaganda piece'

The documentary, produced by the United Kingdom's public broadcaster, had earlier been termed a "propaganda piece" by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), which added that it lacked objectivity and reflected a colonial mindset. "While it was not made available in India by the BBC, some YouTube channels had uploaded it to promote an anti-India agenda," a government official said.

> PM and his drum-beaters assert that the new BBC documentary on him is slanderous. Then why did PM Vajpayee want his exit in 2002?
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress general secretary

It is learnt that YouTube has also been instructed to block the video if it is uploaded on its platform again. Twitter has also been told to identify and block any tweets containing links to the video posted on other platforms.

Sources said that senior officials of multiple Ministries, including the MEA, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the I&B Ministry, earlier examined the documentary and found it to be "an attempt to cast aspersions on the authority and credibility of the Supreme Court of India, sow divisions among various Indian communities, and make unsubstantiated allegations regarding the actions of foreign governments in India."

'Censorship imposed'

"The documentary was accordingly found to be undermining the sovereignty and integrity of India, and having the potential to adversely impact India's friendly relations with foreign States, as also public order within the country," said the official.

Responding to the development, the Congress general secretary for communications, Jairam Ramesh, on Saturday tweeted: "PM and his drum-beaters assert that the new BBC documentary on him is slanderous. Censorship has been imposed. Then why did PM Vajpayee want his exit in 2002, only to be pressurised not to insist by the threat of resignation by Advani? Why did Vajpayee remind him of his *rajdharma*?"

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien said his own tweet had been deleted. "Censorship... @Twitter@TwitterIndia has taken down my tweet of the #BBCDocumentary, it received lakhs of views. The 1 hr@BBC docu exposes how PM @narendramodi hates minorities," he tweeted.

He also posted a screenshot showing that his tweet had been withheld in India in response to a legal demand.

British probe into Gujarat riots was to address concerns of our constituents: Straw

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Former British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, in an interview with veteran journalist Karan Thapar of *The Wire* on the BBC documentary about the 2002 Gujarat riots, said that the British government conducted an investigation of its own because many citizens of Gujarati Muslim origin were worried about their loved ones in India and "were making representations" to that effect to the then Tony Blair government.

"The simple fact is that in Britain, including in my constituency, there were hundreds of thousands of people from the Indian State of Gujarat, mainly Muslims. There was a lot of concern and there were also people that I knew whose families were affected by these inter-communal riots directly and they were making representations to us. [This was] one of the reasons why the then High Commissioner ordered this investigation," Mr. Straw stated as the cause that prompted the unusual investigation.

Jack Straw

The former diplomat stated that he had conversations with Indian officials, including the then External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh, regarding the riots.

The 29-minute interview with Mr. Straw came days after the BBC aired a documentary titled *India: The Modi Question*, which revealed the British authorities had ordered an inquiry into the riots as they had found the extent of the violence alarming. This drew a strong response from the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi, who described the reported "inquiry" as "neo-colonial".

Mr. Straw explained that the ripples of the Gujarat riots were felt in the U.K. and that as a result, the then British High Commissioner (Sir Rob Young) ordered an investigation.

During his weekly press briefing on Thursday, Mr. Bagchi questioned the legitimacy and authority of the British officials to conduct an inquiry of their own into the riot that was an internal law and order problem of India.

"It was nothing about post-colonial. It was everything to do with our constituents," Mr. Straw said, justifying the investigation.

Employment days under MGNREGS at a five-year low

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The average days of employment provided per household under the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is at a five-year low, this financial year.

As on Friday, the average days of employment provided per household is 42 days, while it was 50 days in 2021-22, 52 days in 2020-21, 48 days in 2019-20 and 51 days in 2018-19.

According to officials, there has been a decline in demand for jobs under the scheme this financial year as opposed to the two pandemic years, when a significant population depended on MGNREGS to make up for the deficit in their income created by job loss.

Academics and activists, however, do not buy this argument and allege that the programme has been plagued by systemic problems that is disincentivising participation.

Technical complexities

"Choking of funds has led to suppression of work demand and delays in wage payments. It is most likely that such supply constraints have led to workers getting routinely discouraged from doing NREGA work. The introduction of unnecessary technical complexities like an app for attendance at worksites has caused more hardships for workers who will be more dissuaded going forward," Rajendran Narayanan, who teaches at Azim Premji University, explained.

Making the situation more bleak is the low utilisation of person days by several States. With less than two-months for the financial year to close, there are at least nine States and union territories which have utilised less than 70% of projected person days.

Busy bees: Workers engaged in desilting activities as part of MGNREGS at NTR District in Andhra Pradesh in May 2022. G.N. RAO

Person days under MGNREGS is defined as the total number of work days by a person registered under the scheme in a financial year. As per the statistics available till Friday, the errant States and Union Territories s are: Arunachal Pradesh (63.92%), Chhattisgarh (61.60%), Goa (18.03%), Haryana (59.91%), Manipur (14.52%), Meghalaya (55.65%), Andaman Nicobar (26.84%), Daman & Diu (0%) and Lakshadweep (33.63%).

Sub-par performance

Other than Daman and Diu which was allotted a miniscule 1 lakh person days, Manipur is at the bottom of the pile having utilised only 14.52% of its projected 2.5 crore person days.

"The State's performance in this financial year has been particularly bad, from the statistics available with us. Because of financial mismanagement, wages have also been delayed for 3-4 months," a senior Rural Development Ministry official said.

Many activists point out that the performance of Chhattisgarh and Meghalaya in this financial year is also particularly worrying as the two States have had a strong record in the previous years.

With low utilisation, financial outlay for the underperforming States is expected to further shrink in the upcoming financial year.

Though the MNREG Act clearly states that it is a demand-driven programme which requires a bottom-up approach, more often than not the labour Budget put up by States is trimmed by the Centre without giving any cogent explanation.

"For the programme to run effectively and for the workers to get their legal dues, the allocation should minimally be ₹2 lakh crore," Mr. Narayanan said.

'PIB fact-check unit will censor content only about Centre'

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The mandate of the Press Information Bureau's (PIB) fact-check unit is to examine the veracity of only the content related to the Union Ministries and government organisations and will remain so even when it is empowered to get any fake content removed from the social media platforms, according to government officials.

A draft amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, provides that the platforms will have to remove the content "identified as fake or false" by the fact-check unit or other agency authorised by the Centre for fact checking".

Asked about the proposed rule, an official said: "The unit does not have the authority to fact-check any other content, including those related to State governments, agencies or private entities."

Through the proposed amendment, the official said the process will be brought under the purview of the IT Rules and it would be mandatory for the platforms to remove, or disallow the posting of, any content identified as false by the unit.

It is learnt that the I&B Ministry officials recently held a meeting with YouTube representatives.

Developing 'Miya areas' is our job: Assam BJP chief

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Developing areas inhabited by the "Miya people" is the job of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government in Assam whether or not they vote for the party, State BJP president Bhabesh Kalita said on Saturday. An honorific of Persian origin used to address Muslim men elsewhere in India, *Miya* is used as a pejorative term in Assam, referring to Bengali-speaking or Bengal-origin Muslims in the State, perceived to be "illegal immigrants" or "Bangladeshis".

Muslims comprise more than 34% of Assam's total population.

"Along with our regional allies, we have embarked on Mission 12+ for winning at least 12 of the 14 Lok Sabha seats in Assam in the 2024 general elections. These include the Muslim-dominated constituencies such as Dhubri," Mr. Kalita told presspersons at the State party headquarters.

Cong. releases 'chargesheet' against Modi govt.; accuses BJP of betraying everyone

The party says BJP helps close friends of Modi by waiving off their loans and spends crores of rupees on propaganda; Bharat Jodo Yatra will go as per schedule despite twin blasts in Jammu

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal and communication chief Jairam Ramesh on Saturday released a one-page "chargesheet" against the Narendra Modi government as part of the party's *haath se haath jodo abhiyaan* (hand-on-hand together campaign) that will start on January 26.

In the "chargesheet", the party termed the BJP as '*Bhrasht Jumla Party*' (party of corruption and false promises), and alleged that its mantra was *kuch ka saath, khud ka vikas, sabke saath vishwasghaat* (benefit of a few, development for self and betrayal of everyone)".

Under the '*kuch ka saath*' (benefit of a few) segment, the party alleged loan waivers for a few select businessmen, 10% of the wealthy owning 64% of India's wealth and infrastructure assets such as ports and airports being "gifted to the Prime Minister's close friends".

Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and K.C. Venugopal releasing the logo of its next campaign in New Delhi on Saturday. R.V. MOORTHY

In the '*khud ka vikas*' (development for self) segment, the Congress accused the BJP of spending crores on propaganda and indulging in nepotism. Issues such as unemployment, food security, women's security, plight of farmers, hate speeches, the "toppling" of elected governments and India's ranking in international indices in various sectors figure in under the "*sabke saath vishwasghaat*" section.

Speaking to reporters at the AICC headquarters, Mr. Venugopal said the Yatra that is currently in Jammu and Kashmir will continue on schedule, despite the twin blasts in Jammu on Saturday. "Two weeks before the yatra began, I met J&K L-G [Manoj Sinha] in connection with the Yatra. All our leaders in J&K are in constant touch with the security personnel," he said.

Rahul Gandhi will hoist the National Flag at the Pradesh Congress Committee office in the Lal Chowk area and will address a rally at the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium.

"The march will be over on January 29. On January 30, at 10 a.m., Mr. Gandhi will hoist the National Flag. At 11 a.m., a public meeting will take place," he said. The leaders also unveiled the logo of the *haath se haath jodo* campaign.

TIPRA, BJP in talks over 'alliance' in Tripura election

The Hindu Bureau
AGARTALA

TIPRA chairman Debbarman asked for a written assurance from the MHA for 'Greater Tipraland'

The TIPRA (Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance) is reportedly engaged in a dialogue with the BJP to settle for an 'alliance' for the upcoming Assembly election in Tripura. Party president Bijay Kumar Hrangkhawl reached New Delhi on Saturday to join its chairman Pradyot Kishore Debbarman to attend a meeting with Assam Chief Minister and NEDA (Northeast Democratic Alliance) chief Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday, a highly placed source in TIPRA told *The Hindu*.

"There will be more than one meeting on Sunday which will also see participation of very senior leaders of the BJP," the source added.

Mr. Debbarman held the first round of meeting with Mr. Sarma in New Delhi on Thursday but failed to make headway as the TIPRA chief insisted on a written assurance from the Ministry of Home Affairs accepting the demand of 'Greater Tipraland', a theoretical state for the indigenous population with areas of Tripura, selected places of neighbouring States and Bangladesh.

He has been claiming that the demand is very much within the ambit of the Constitution and can be settled by invoking Articles 2 and 3. "I can't betray my people who have trusted me," he said. Though the TIPRA supremo has been lambasting the ruling BJP on many issues, he has initiated alliance efforts only with the BJP, continuing to ignore the appeals of CPI (M) and Congress to join the grand alliance.

Inspection of plane under way: Russian embassy

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Russian embassy on Saturday said it was closely following the situation relating to a Goa-bound flight from Russia that was diverted to Uzbekistan apparently due to a bomb threat. The police in Goa said the chartered flight with 240 passengers on board was diverted in the early hours of Saturday after the authorities at the Dabolim airport in Goa received an email claiming there was a bomb.

"The embassy is closely following the situation around the Azur Air flight AZV2463 *en route* from Perm to Goa," the Russian mission said. "According to information, the plane made an emergency landing in Uzbekistan after a report of alleged bomb scare," it added. The embassy said the aircraft is being inspected and the airline is preparing to accommodate the passengers in hotels.

Mitra rues continuous erosion of federalism and consensus at GST council

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Describing the GST Council as the only institution in the country that is totally federalist, former West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra said there has been steady erosion in both federalism and consensus-making in the GST Council.

Mr. Mitra, Principal Chief Adviser to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Finance Department, said that for the first three years, the GST Council was run on the basis of consensus and was a professionally run body, but he rued that that era has gone.

Citing a Supreme Court judgment, Mr. Mitra said GST was a "product of collaborative dialogue", which means drawing up a consensus on a federalist polity. "If the GST is to move forward, in the manner it has started, then we have to maintain this... If majoritarianism becomes a rule, it will lose its entire value," he said.

Speaking at an event organised by the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences along with the All India Federation of Tax Practitioner, Eastern Zone on Friday evening, he also raised the issue of frauds under the GST tax regime, which is estimated to be close to ₹1,25,593 crore.

Referring to a presentation made by Nandan Nilekani before the GST Council in March 2020, Mr. Mitra said the value of fraudulent transactions was estimated to be close to ₹70,018 crore. Of this, frauds worth ₹38,771 crore came under the head of "excess input tax credit" and ₹31,247 crore came from "under declaration".

Mr. Mitra, citing a Ministry of Finance data tabled in the Rajya Sabha, said that frauds post 2020 to till recently would total to around ₹55,575 crore, therefore estimating the total value of frauds under the GST tax regime to be close to ₹1,25,593 crore.

Brij Bhushan is a controversial figure with wide fan base

NEWS ANALYSIS

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The BJP Lok Sabha member from Kaiserganj and Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who is facing serious allegations of harassment levelled by Olympian wrestlers, has been a controversial figure in Uttar Pradesh politics for more than three decades.

Like many other *bahubalis* or strongmen, who appeared on Uttar Pradesh's electoral horizon during the 1990s thanks to the State's unstable political circumstances, Mr. Singh, 66, also made himself a prominent player in the Gonda-Balrampur-Bahraich belt. The MP faces four criminal cases including serious charges of robbery and attempt to murder according to his 2019 election affidavit. He was once also charged under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA).

However, he has developed a wide network of supporters not only in his own Rajput community but also in other caste groups since 1991, when he was first elected to the Lok Sabha on BJP ticket from Gonda.

'Pride of U.P.'

Even now support is coming from his home turf. "Anybody comes and levels allegations on our guardian and we listen silently. Never, we will teach them lessons," says Akash Shukla, a supporter of Mr. Singh in Bahraich.

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

Since the WFI controversy erupted, many supporters of the Kaiserganj MP are making it an issue of Uttar Pradesh pride, with some even calling it a false charge levelled by players "of a particular region". "Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is the pride of Uttar Pradesh," adds Mr. Shukla.

Mr. Singh is not new to controversies. He was named as an accused in the Babri demolition case and charged under TADA for allegedly sheltering shooters of a notorious Uttar Pradesh criminal group, although he was later acquitted. In 1993, the Rajput leader was accused of attacking a former State Minister and another strongman Vinod Kumar Singh alias Pandit Singh with whom he had a turf war for over three decades. He was later acquitted by the court.

A graduate in law from Avadh University, Mr. Singh was elected to the Lok Sabha from Balrampur in 2004, but then left the BJP in 2008 to join the Samajwadi Party (SP). Many in Uttar Pradesh believed that former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was not happy with Mr. Singh. In 2009, he was elected on the SP symbol from Kaiserganj but then switched back to the BJP fold in the run-up to the 2014 Lok Sabha polls and emerged victorious again.

Mr. Singh has established a chain of educational institutions in Gonda and the adjoining districts and claims to be involved in agriculture and allied activities. He made headlines for threatening MNS president Raj Thackeray if the latter visits Ayodhya.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
(Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India)
NIFT Campus, Opp: Cyber towers, Madhapur, Hyderabad – 500 081.
Ph. No. 040-23110630, 23110841 – 43, Ext: 225/26

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR STATIONERY & XEROX SERVICES

Advt. No. NIFT/HYD/ADMIN./Stationary & Xerox Services Tenders/2022 Dated: 20.01.2023

Sealed tenders are invited for providing **Stationary & Xerox Services** in NIFT Centre, Hyderabad from experienced & professionally competent Contractors/ Firms. The interested contractors/Firms can visit NIFT website **www.nift.ac.in/hyderabad/tenders** for detailed NIFT, Tender Document etc.,

NIFT reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Director

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: f.6 (33)JDA/Cleaning Work/2022-23/D-34 Date : 19.01.2023

NOTICE INVITING BID

Online Bids are invited for **"Cleaning Work"** up to **09.02.2023** till **06:00 PM.** The estimated cost of work is **Rs. 1,10,00,000/- (One Crore Ten Lacs only).** The last date for applying for Bid and making online payment on JDA portal is **09.02.2023 by 06:00 PM.** Details may be seen in the Bidding Document availbale on **www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**

UBN No.: JDA2223WSOB00664

To participate in the bid, bidder has to be :

1. Registered on JDA website **www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in** for participating in the Bid, the Bidder has to apply for the Bid and pay the Bidding Document Fee, RISL Processing Fee and Bid Security Deposit, online only.

2. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** for online e-Bid submission.

Raj. Samwad/C/2022-23/13667 **Dy. Commissioner (Store)**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX
TAMILNADU & PUDUCHERRY
121, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Chennai - 600034
Email: chennai.dcit.hq.admin@incometax.gov.in Ph: 044 - 2833 8319 / Fax: 044 - 2833 8317

C.No.26(5)/Estt/Sports/2022 **CORRIGENDUM** Dated: 18.01.2023

Please refer to the Notice dated 30-12-2022 regarding cancellation of Recruitment under Sports Quota for the Year 2020-21 (2020) published by this office vide C.No.26(5)/Estt/Sports/2022 in the Employment News on 14-01-2023 and other dailies on 17-01-2023. In the said notice, the last sentence may be read as under:

"It is notified that the recruitment to the posts of Income-tax Inspector, Tax Assistant and Multi Tasking Staff has been cancelled due to administrative reasons."

Sd/-
(R.KUMARAN)
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX (HQRS)(ADMN), CHENNAI.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BALASORE
Tel: 06782-262249, Fax: 262931, email: eerwss_bls@nic.in, eerwssbls@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Tendering

Identification No. 50/2022-23 Dt. 19.01.2023

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balasore on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites bids from bidders of eligible class registered with the Odisha State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for the works detailed in the table below to be eventually drawn up in P1 contract with design and execution of the following Piped Water Supply Projects.

1.	Nos. of Work	: 01 No RPWS Scheme AT Bishnupur & 9 Adj. vill. under Bahanaga block in Balasore district
2.	Estimated cost	: Rs.968.31 lakhs
3.	Period of completion	: 330 days
4.	Availability of bid document in Portal	: Dt.25.01.2023 at 10.00 hours to 08.02.2023 up to 17.00 hours through online.
5.	Seeking of Clarification	: Dt.27.01.2023 at 10.00 hours to Dt.06.02.2023 upto 15.00 hours.
6.	Date of opening of Bid	: Dt.09.02.2023 at 11.00 hours in the O/O EE, RWSS Division, Balasore.
7.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Tender.	: Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balasore

Bid Cost will be receipt through electronic payment by NEFT/RTGS.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal : **http://tendersodisha.gov.in**

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BALASORE.

O-1676 : OIPR-25013/11/0034/2223

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

An unidentified male dead body approximate age-50, found from Prakkulam Sampranikkodi in Ashtamudi lake at Kollam District on 10.01.2023. A case registered as crime number 41/2023 U/s 174 CrPC in this regard and any information does not get so far. The dead body kept in the Mortuary at District Hospital, Kollam.

If get any information, please contact: -
Station House officer, Anchalummoodu Police Station : +919497947134
SI of Police Anchalummoodu Police Station: +919497980159
SI of Police Anchalummoodu Police Station: +919497980160
Anchalummoodu Police Station: 0474-2552682

IDENTIFICATION MARKS
HEIGHT : 174 CM; DRESS CODE: Kavi Lungi and Red color T-Shirt
RO/00199/F2/2023/I&PRD

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-47/18227/2022-23 Date:21.01.2023

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Super Grade Electrical License issued from KCEI & Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work **Part-A:** Establishment of 2x150MVA, 220/66/11kV sub-station at Hi-Tech Defence Aerospace Park Phase-II (Haraluru-Muddenahalli) I.A at Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural Dist on Total Turnkey basis, **Part-B:** Running two circuits of 220kV Single Core 1200sqmm XLPE Copper UG cable for a route length of 7.350kms from proposed Hi-Tech Defence Aerospace Park Phase-II (Haraluru-Muddenahalli) sub-station to Cable Terminating Tower for LILO of 220kV Devanahalli –Doddaballapura Transmission line, **Part-C:** Construction of 220kV DC line to LILO the Devanahalli- Doddaballapura line from common point (of Hoody-D.B Pura & Devanahalli-D.B Pura line) near 400/220kV Devanahalli Hardware Park S/s to 220kV DC cable terminating tower to connect to proposed 220/66/11kV S/s at Hi-Tech Defence Aerospace Park Phase-II (Haraluru Muddenahalli) with special design Narrow based single side cross arm towers using AAAC Moose conductor for a route length of 8.319 kms on **Total Turnkey Basis.**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **15.02.2023 upto 04:30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/CP/4245/Zen/2022-23

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division, Dasarahalli Zone, BBMP, MEI Layout, Bagalagunte, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560073.

No: BBMP/DZ/EE/PD/TEND/01/2022-23 Date: 20-01-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Project Division - Dasarahalli Zone), BBMP, Bengaluru invites item rate tenders from eligible Contractors / Firms registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations and License Holders from Labour Department for Man Power Supply detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount of Service (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Providing Security Services & Human Resource to Zonal Office and Other Office Buildings in Dasarahalli Zone.	153.10	2,30,000/-
2	Providing Data Entry Operators / Computer Operators for Offices at Dasarahalli Zone, BBMP.	120.12	1,81,000/-

Calendar of Events: **1)** Tender Documents can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Last Date for Tender Queries: **27-01-2023 upto 3.00 PM. 3)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **30-01-2023 at 11.30 AM. at Office of the Chief Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560073. 4)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders is **06-02-2023 upto 4.00 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **07-02-2023 by 4.30 PM. 6)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid is **08-02-2023 after approval of Technical Bid.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Division, Dasarahalli Zone, BBMP.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER
TEL BASIN, AT/PO - BHAWANIPATNA, DIST. KALAHANDI
Mail-cetelbasinbhp@gmail.com
Government of Odisha

'e' Procurement Notice–CE&BM, TEL-19/2022-23
Bid Identification No.CE,TEL-BID-10/2022-23

Online tenders are invited for EPC Contract for Construction of In-stream storage structures at Kukedmal across Tel river of State of Odisha including Hydro-mechanical works. Power Connectivity works, Road Connectivity, Staff Quarters including Survey, Investigation, Planning, Design and Estimate of all Components with Operation and Maintenance of the project for a period of five years or five Flood Seasons whichever is more after successful commissioning of the Project of State of Odisha from perspective bidders.

1.	Name of Work	:	Construction of In-stream storage structures at Kukedmal across Tel river of State of Odisha including Hydro-mechanical works, Power Connectivity works, Road Connectivity, Staff Quarters including Survey, Investigation, Planning, Design and Estimate of all Components with Operation and Maintenance of the project for a period of five years or five Flood Seasons whichever is more after successful commissioning of the Project of State of Odisha
2.	Approximate Value of Work put to tender.	:	Rs.493.40 Cr.
2.	Period of completion	:	36 Calendar months including rainy season
3.	Date & time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:	Dt. 25.01.2023 from 10.00 AM to Dt. 01.03.2023 up to 5 PM
4.	Last date/Time for receipt of Bids in the portal.	:	Dt.01.03.2023 up to 5 P.M.
5.	Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid.	:	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal - **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna

A-1052: OIPR-32317/11/0023/2223

INBRIEF

Punjab Finance Minister goes to roads to check tax evaders

Punjab Finance and Excise Minister Harpal Singh Cheema got into action mode on Saturday as he led a team of Tax Department officials on the Delhi-Amritsar National Highway, conducting a special check on vehicles ferrying goods to catch hold of tax evaders. The drive was conducted near Rajpura in Patiala district, and at least 38 vehicles were detained for verification as most of them were not supported by genuine documents or e-way bills. A fine of around ₹60 lakh was collectively imposed on them. Mr. Cheema said the drive was conducted after he had received information on evasion of GST on the products being transported in vehicles.

First Indian intranasal COVID vaccine to be out on Jan. 26

Bharat Biotech will launch its intranasal COVID-19 vaccine iNCOVACC, the first of its kind in India, on January 26, the company's chairman and managing director, Krishna Ella, said in Bhopal on Saturday. "Our nasal vaccine will be officially launched on Republic Day," Mr. Ella said, participating in the "Face-to-face with new frontiers in science" segment of the India International Science Festival, organised at the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology. He added that a homegrown vaccine for the lumpy skin disease in cattle, Lumpi-ProVacInd, is likely to be launched next month.

ED arrests Trinamool leader Kuntal Ghosh in hiring scam

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday arrested Trinamool Congress youth leader Kuntal Ghosh in connection with the West Bengal recruitment scam. It is alleged that Mr. Ghosh had collected ₹19 crore from 325 candidates promising them jobs as teachers in State-run schools. The ED had been questioning Mr. Ghosh for the past 24 hours and several documents were seized from his house in Kolkata. Earlier, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had also questioned the youth leader. While being taken to a city court, Mr. Ghosh said his arrest was a conspiracy of Tapas Mondal, another Trinamool leader from Hooghly. The court sent Mr. Ghosh to ED custody till February 3.

Panel denies Meghalaya's estimate on extracted coal

A court-appointed committee has denied the Meghalaya government's estimate of coal extracted before the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) ban on hazardous rat-hole mining in April 2014. The High Court of Meghalaya had appointed retired judge B.P. Katakey a year ago to ascertain whether the State government cracked down on illegal coal mining as directed by the Supreme Court and the NGT. The State government claimed that 32 lakh tonnes of coal had already been extracted when the NGT ban kicked in. "According to my findings, the coal stock is 19 lakh tonnes at most and not 32 lakh tonnes," Justice Katakey said in Shillong.

Life in Joshimath skids on rain, snow

Falling temperatures in the sinking town have worsened the plight of people who were displaced from their houses to shelter homes; they complain about insufficient arrangements made to get through the weather; electricity infrastructure affected by subsidence warns of a power crisis

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Life has been thrown out of gear in Joshimath after snow and rain hit the "sinking" town over the past couple of days, with those living in shelter homes suffering the additional ordeal of leaving home and living a nomadic life.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted more snow for the town and nearby areas in the coming week.

Raghuveer Singh Kunwar, who runs a tea stall in the town that is abuzz with administrative officials from the Centre and the State arriving to ascertain the cause of land subsidence, is concerned about the wedding of his elder son, Rohit, scheduled for January 26.

His house being in the danger zone, Mr. Kunwar stayed in a local gurdwara till Thursday. Now, he has moved to his younger brother's home at Shalu Dungra village, located 15 km from Joshimath.

"My house is just behind the hotel Mount View and Malari-Inn, which are being demolished as they have tilted and pose a threat to several other houses in the vicinity. The administration had moved us to a shelter home 10 days ago but I have a wedding in the family and the preparations have gone haywire due to the same," Mr. Kunwar said.

His family of six is currently putting up tents in their native village, as the movement of guests started on Saturday.

"*Shadi to ho jayegi... magar bahu ko kahan le jayenge? Shelter home mein* (The wedding can happen in any circumstance, but where we will take this new bride? To the shelter home)?," asked Prema Devi, mother of the groom.

Jyoti Kumari, 24, whose wedding is scheduled for March, says that her parents purchased gifts and clothes in December for the function. But after the administration included her dilapidated house in the danger category, she had to move into the shelter home, leaving everything behind.

Adding to the woes: People walk on a snow-covered road at Joshimath in Chamoli on Friday. ANI

"I don't think that the situation in my town will become normal anytime soon, but the biggest regret will be of not getting married from the house where I was born," Ms. Kumari said.

863 houses damaged

According to the data provided by the district administration, as many as 863 houses in the town have been damaged in the land subsidence which some experts say has been going on for several years. Among the 863 damaged homes, 181 are in the danger zone and will eventually be demolished.

The government claimed it had rehabilitated 274 families and 921 people by moving them to shelter homes set up by the administration, but people say that the arrangements are not enough to deal with the nail-biting cold.

'Shelter homes too cold'

"There is one heater in a hall in Palika Parishad Bhavan where around 22 people are living. A total of 50 people are on the entire premises which has just three heaters. There are small children with us. The arrangements are insufficient for this weather," said a villager who did not wish to be named.

The IMD has no respite for residents either, with predictions of both rain and snow in the next week. So far, the town has witnessed 18.4 mm of rainfall since the beginning of the month and 2.5 mm in the past 24 hours alone. Together, the snow and rain have plunged the minimum temperature to 0.7 degrees Celsius.

Power crisis looms

Amid the tales of gloom and apathy, Joshimath town is also staring at a power crisis. According to officials of Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. (UPCL), around 70 electric poles and a couple of transformers have started tilting or have tilted in the town that has a substation of 33/11kV capacity.

"We have already fixed the issue of some towers that were tilting. We are trying to ensure that there is no power crisis in the town. Things are under control so far," said UPCL Managing Director Anil Kumar.

Of a bygone era: excavations reveal Buddhist monastery complex at Bharatpur of Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Recent excavations at Bharatpur in Paschim Bardhaman district of West Bengal have revealed the presence of a Buddhist monastery. The Kolkata Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) started excavating the site in the second week of January and a structural complex of a monastery has now been partially exposed.

The site was initially excavated almost 50 years ago between 1972 and 1975 when archaeologists from the ASI and Burdwan University found a Buddhist stupa there.

"The site had been left unexcavated for almost 50 years. We were looking at the cultural sequence of the stupa from where black and red ware pottery belonging to the Chalcolithic Age was also recovered. A Buddhist stupa cannot exist in isolation, and the recent excavations have revealed the presence of an extended monastery complex," said Shubha Majumder, Superintending Archaeologist at the ASI Kolkata Circle.

Mr. Majumder, who is supervising the excavations, said archaeologists would be able to ascertain more details about the monastery complex and its date of construction once the excavation progresses. "So far, we have exposed some structures which appear to be the outer wall of the monastery, containing nine layers of brick and a small circular structure, probably a stupa," he added.

Rare finding: Experts say the presence of a large stupa, along with a monastery complex and pottery from the Chalcolithic Age, makes the site unique. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Unique stupa

According to experts, what makes the site unique in terms of other Buddhist sites in the State is the presence of a large stupa, along with a monastery complex and black and red ware pottery, from the Chalcolithic or Copper Age.

In other sites across West Bengal, such as Karnasubarna in Murshidabad, Moghalamari in Paschim Medinipur and Jagjivanpur in Malda, archaeologists have found only smaller votive stupas.

A Buddhist stupa is a commemorative monument usually housing sacred relics associated with the Buddha or other saints or priests, whereas votive stupas have similar significance but are smaller structures originating in eight cylindrical structures.

When the site was excavated in the 1970s, archaeologists found black and red ware pottery associated with the Chalcolithic Age, which predates any Buddhist structures. "The excavation is likely to shed more light to understand the earliest occupation of the site and its continuity till the establishment of a Buddhist monastery," Mr. Majumder said.

Early settlements

Rupendra Kumar Chattopadhyay, former Professor at the Department of Archaeology, University of Calcutta, said the site was important for two main reasons: one, because it is an early village settlement on the bank of the Damodar river which could date to around 2000 BC; and two, the Buddhist monastery complex.

"So there are two significances to the site: one is secular which is an early village settlement, and second, religious, which is the Buddhist site," he said.

Professor Chattopadhyay said the site could have been a nucleus of an early village farming site from where sites radiated to other areas along the other bank of the Damodar and other rivers such as Ajoy and Darakeshwar.

Referring to other prehistoric sites in the region, Mr. Majumder said there were early village farming sites at Dihar and Pakhanna on the other bank of the Damodar in Bankura district. He said the excavation was an attempt to trace the cultural continuity of the site where settlements could have been located for thousands of years.

Sculptures found

In the 1970s when the site was excavated along with the stupa, five beautiful seated sculptures of the Buddha in Bhumisparsha Mudra – with all five fingers of the right hand extended to touch the ground – were found. These miniature sculptures, each about 30 cm in height, were most likely used for worship in the monastery.

Professor Chattopadhyay and Dr. Majumder said that almost all the Buddhist sites have been found in the Rarh Bengal region, which is the southwestern part of the State. The excavation at Bharatpur, also in the same region, has the potential to reveal interesting aspects about the extension of Buddhism in the region.

Students complete U.S. programme on English

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Fifty teenage students from two schools in Jaipur belonging to underprivileged families have successfully completed a unique English language proficiency programme run by the United States Embassy's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

The children, who have learnt the linguistic skills with distinction, were felicitated at a graduation ceremony here over the weekend.

The English access microscholarship programme, which started in September 2020, has sought to strengthen the foundation of language skills among the students in the age group of 13 to 16 and enable them to avail themselves of educational and employment opportunities in future.

The programme, implemented through the New Delhi-based Learning Links Foundation, adopted a communicative approach to teaching English, infusing a spirit of participatory learning helping the children groom their personalities.

SUDOKU

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No.SS5686 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	3	1	4	8	9	2	5	6
5	9	4	6	1	2	3	8	7
6	2	8	3	5	7	1	4	9
2	4	3	5	6	8	7	9	1
8	1	6	7	9	3	4	2	5
9	5	7	1	2	4	6	3	8
4	7	9	8	3	6	5	1	2
3	8	5	2	7	1	9	6	4
1	6	2	9	4	5	8	7	3

Three years on, Ayushman Bharat School Health and Wellness Programme has less than 50% uptake

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

It has been nearly three years since the School Health and Wellness Programme was launched under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, and so far only 15 States have started the weekly 40-minute classroom sessions with students, official sources from the Union Health Ministry told *The Hindu*.

A crucial cog in implementing the programme for middle, secondary, and senior secondary grades across government and government-aided schools are health and wellness ambassadors (HWAs).

Two teachers, preferably one male and one female, in every school are to be designated as the HWAs, says the National Health Mission website. They are meant to be trained at the State level, to impart health promotion and disease prevention information in a joyful and interesting manner, according to the operational guidelines of the Ministry.

Far from target

As of December 2022, only 71 of 766 districts have achieved 100% HWA training targets, according to Ministry data. Only four States and Union Territories – Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Chandigarh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli – have achieved 100% coverage. Some States are on the road to achieving targets, such as Rajasthan (99%), Uttarakhand (97%), and Haryana (92%).

"In 2022-23, over 300 districts are targeted to be covered across 36 States and Union Territories," a senior Health Ministry official said.

The programme syllabus covers promoting the safe use of the Internet and social media. FILE PHOTO

In Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, the number of HWAs trained is at 8% and 9%, respectively. The States such as Uttar Pradesh (29%), Karnataka (31%), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (32%) and Madhya Pradesh (34%) have also not met targets.

The Health Ministry has been facing various challenges in implementing the programme. One major hindrance is that teachers at government schools are overworked. In Delhi, for instance, the programme syllabus is in addition to the Happiness Curriculum, *Desh Bhakti* Curriculum, and Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum that schools are implementing.

"Moreover, not all States have set aside the weekly time slot in the classroom schedule to conduct these programmes. There is no formal reporting structure or accountability to ensure that the syllabus is implemented," said a State Programme Officer working with the Department of Health in Delhi.

The challenge is conducting adequate teacher training programmes while maintaining quality. "In most schools, it is viewed as an additional activity and teachers who are on the verge of retirement are allocated the HWA responsibility," the officer added.

The syllabus, designed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in conjunction with the Ministries of Health and Education, covers 11 core themes including managing emotional and mental health, navigating interpersonal relationships, and promoting the safe use of the Internet and social media. While the Health Ministry wishes to impart education about biological and emotional wellbeing, it is reluctant to use the word sex. "In multiple iterations of the syllabus, drafts of which went to and from the Health Ministry to the Education Ministry and NCERT, the word 'sex' was removed as it was considered a taboo. Instead, we have called it life skill-based education," the official added.

JERUSALEM

Man killed by Israeli in occupied West Bank, say Palestinian officials

AFP

A Palestinian was killed by an Israeli in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian officials said, and the Israeli military said the Palestinian tried to stab Jewish residents. CCTV footage showed an individual running through the entrance of the Jewish Sde Efraim farm and being shot by an Israeli as he tries to advance further. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES

Buzz Aldrin, second man on the Moon, marries on 93rd birthday

AP

Legendary Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the second person to set foot on the Moon, said he had married his longtime girlfriend on Friday, his 93rd birthday. Aldrin and the 63-year-old Anca Faur, executive vice president of Buzz Aldrin Ventures, were wed in a private ceremony. AFP

SAN FRANCISCO

Elon Musk takes witness stand to defend his tweets on Tesla buyout

REUTERS

Elon Musk took the witness stand on Friday to defend a 2018 tweet claiming he had lined up the financing to take Tesla private in a deal that never came close to happening. The tweet resulted in a $40 million settlement with securities regulators. It also led to a class-action lawsuit alleging he misled investors. AP

MADRID

Thousands, led by far-right, protest against the Spanish government

REUTERS

Thousands protested in Madrid on Saturday against Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's leftist government in a rally held in a key election year that was backed by far-right party Vox. The right is angered by the decision to abolish the crime of sedition, of which nine separatist leaders were convicted in 2017. AFP

Chris Hipkins to succeed Ardern as New Zealand's next Prime Minister

Hipkins, who served as Education Minister, must still garner an endorsement from his Labour Party colleagues, but that is just a formality now; he rose to prominence during the pandemic, when he took on a kind of crisis management role

Associated Press
WELLINGTON

Education Minister Chris Hipkins is set to become New Zealand's next Prime Minister after he was the only candidate to enter the contest on Saturday to replace Jacinda Ardern.

Mr. Hipkins, 44, must still garner an endorsement on Sunday from his Labour Party colleagues, but that is just a formality now. An official transfer of power will come in the days to follow.

"It's a big day for a boy from the Hutt," Mr. Hipkins said, referring to the Hutt Valley near Wellington where he grew up. "I'm really humbled and really proud to be taking this on. It is the biggest responsibility and the biggest privilege of my life."

Short stint: Chris Hipkins will have only a little more than eight months in the role before contesting a general election. AP

Ardern's shock move

Ms. Ardern shocked the nation of 5 million people on Thursday when she announced she was resigning after five-and-a-half years in the top role.

The lack of other candidates indicated party lawmakers had rallied behind Mr. Hipkins to avoid a drawn-out contest and any sign of disunity following Ms. Ardern's departure.

Mr. Hipkins will have only a little more than eight months in the role before contesting a general election. Opinion polls have indicated that Labour is trailing its main opponent, the conservative National Party.

Mr. Hipkins rose to public prominence during the coronavirus pandemic, when he took on a kind of crisis management role. But he and other liberals have long been in the shadow of Ms. Ardern, who became a global icon of the left and exemplified a new style of leadership.

Besides holding the education portfolio, Mr. Hipkins is also the Minister for Police and the Public Service, and leader of the House. He is known as a political troubleshooter who has taken on a variety of roles to try to iron out problems created by other lawmakers.

He said he would not be announcing changes to policy or ministerial roles before Sunday's vote, other than to say Grant Robertson would remain Finance Minister.

Mr. Hipkins said he believed he could win the election and paid tribute to Ms. Ardern.

"Jacinda Ardern has been an incredible prime minister for New Zealand," Mr. Hipkins said. "She was the leader that we needed at the time that we needed it."

U.S. designates Wagner group an international 'criminal organisation'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The U.S. on Friday designated Russia's Wagner group as a "transnational criminal organisation," piling pressure on the private Russian army fighting in Ukraine. White House national security spokesman John Kirby said Wagner, controlled by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a businessman close to President Vladimir Putin, has about 50,000 fighters in Ukraine, 80% of them drawn from prisons.

Mr. Kirby showed U.S. intelligence photographs of North Korea supplying arms to Wagner for its Ukraine operations, and said the private army has become a rival to the formal Russian military.

In cahoots: The U.S. said it had photographs of North Korea supplying arms to Wagner for its Ukraine operations. REUTERS

The photographs, from November 18-19, show Russian rail cars entering North Korea, picking up a load of infantry rockets and missiles, and returning to Russia, he said.

He said the U.S. Treasury was designating Wagner as a transnational criminal organisation, putting it in league with Italian mafia groups and Japanese and Russian organised crime.

The designation will allow the wider application of sanctions on the group's sprawling global network, which includes mercenary operations as well as businesses in Africa and elsewhere.

Histories of U.S. and Africa are linked by slavery: Yellen

Agence France-Presse
DAKAR

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Saturday that the histories of the U.S. and Africa were "intimately connected" by the "tragedy" of slavery, as Washington seeks to strengthen relations with the continent.

Speaking at Goree Island off the Senegalese capital of Dakar, the largest slave trading centre on the African coast, Ms. Yellen voiced "an overwhelming sense of sadness and pain thinking about those stolen from their families."

Ms. Yellen arrived in Senegal on Friday, the first stop on a visit aimed at forging a new "mutually beneficial" economic strategy toward Africa, where countries are being aggressively courted by Russia and China. Ms. Yellen is scheduled to travel to Zambia on Sunday, and later to South Africa.

Turkey objects to protests, burning of Koran in Sweden

Reuters
STOCKHOLM

Turkey, a NATO member, has been holding off on approving Sweden's bid to join the group

Protests in Stockholm on Saturday against Turkey and Sweden's bid to join NATO, including the burning of a copy of the Koran, sharply heightened tensions with Turkey at a time when the Nordic country needs Ankara's backing to gain entry to the military alliance.

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms the vile attack on our holy book ... Permitting this anti-Islam act, which targets Muslims and insults our sacred values, under the guise of freedom of expression is completely unacceptable," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said.

Its statement was issued after an anti-immigrant politician from the far-right fringe burned a copy of the Koran near the Turkish Embassy. The Turkish ministry urged Sweden to take necessary actions against the perpetrators and invited all countries to take concrete steps against Islamophobia.

A separate protest took place in the city supporting Kurds and against Sweden's bid to join NATO. A group of pro-Turkish demonstrators also held a rally outside the embassy. All three events had police permits. Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom said that Islamophobic provocations were appalling.

Earlier on Saturday, Turkey said that due to lack of measures to restrict protests, it had cancelled a visit to Ankara by the Swedish Defence Minister.

Blinken calls for status quo by China on Taiwan

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has cautioned China against changing the status quo on Taiwan which is vital to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Over the last few years, China has been trying to build military and economic pressure on Taiwan, Mr. Blinken said at an event on Friday. "On Taiwan, what we have seen over the last few years is, I think, China made a decision that it was no longer comfortable with the status quo, a status quo that had prevailed for decades," the Secretary of State said. From the U.S.'s perspective, that status quo has worked and it is vital to what is important to the U.S., which is maintaining stability across the Taiwan Strait, he added.

Mr. Blinken is scheduled to travel to Beijing next month.

Germany faces backlash over its refusal to provide Leopard tanks to Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Germany faced a strong backlash from allies on Saturday over its refusal to supply Ukraine with its vaunted Leopard tanks to bolster its fighting capacity in the nearly year-long war with Russia.

On Friday, some 50 nations agreed to provide Kyiv with billions of dollars' worth of military hardware, including armoured vehicles and munitions needed to push back Russian forces.

Ukraine on Saturday denounced the "global indecision" of its allies on providing heavy-duty modern tanks, saying "today's indecision is killing more of our people."

Several allies echoed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in saying the tanks were essential to Ukraine's fight with its much larger neighbour.

In a joint statement – and a rare public criticism of Europe's top power – the Foreign Ministers of the three Baltic states said they "call on Germany to provide Leopard tanks to Ukraine now."

"This is needed to stop Russian aggression, help Ukraine and restore peace in Europe quickly. Germany as the leading European power has special responsibility in this regard," said the statement.

Berlin has been hesitant to send the Leopards or allow other nations to transfer them to Kyiv, with reports saying it would agree to do so only if the U.S. provided its tanks as well. Washington has said providing its Abrams tanks to Ukraine is not feasible, citing difficulties in training and maintenance.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Water Resource Department)
Office of the, Executive Engineer, UKP,Rehabilitation Divn.No.4,Bilagi, Camp:Navanagar-Bagalkote.

No.UKP/Reh.Dn.4/PB-2/Tdr-17/2022-23/1600 Date: 21-01-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

As per the tender procedure of KTTP Act, tenders are invited from eligible contractors in Two cover system for the work of " Improvement to Road from SangamCross (NH-367) to Almatti Dam Taluk Border (NH-50) from Ch.13.50 to 29.65 Km in (In selected reaches) in Bagalkote District " pertaining to Indent No. 947 (Rs. 2323.68 lakhs) The last date for submission of bid through e-procurement portal is 17-02-2023 up to 17.30pm. Tender conditions & other details can be procured in e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka govt.in and from this office in working hours.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
UKP, Reh.Divn.No.4 Bilagi, Camp: Navanagar-Bagalkote.
DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-799/MCA/2022-23

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/53/2022-23 Dated: 20-01-2023

E-PROCUREMENT
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through e-Procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For Viveka Yojane/2022-23 Works. The work details can be obtained from the e-Procurement Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 30-01-2023 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from Website at **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/4225/ Adverto/2022-23

BEFORE THE COURT OF XXII ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE (CCH-7) AT BENGALURU
P&SC No. 817/2022

BETWEEN
MRS. KIRAN MAZUMDAR SHAW
Wife of late. Mr. John Mccalum Marshall Shaw
Aged about 69 years
Permanently residing at
Prestige Kingfisher Towers
No 44, 24th Floor, A Block
Kasturba Cross Road
Sampangiram Nagar, Ashok Nagar
Bengaluru - 560 001
.....Petitioner

VERSUS
Nil
.....Respondents

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named Petitioner has made a Petition to this Court (Court Hall No.7), under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act in respect of the Schedule Property to the above Petition so left by her deceased husband Mr. John Mccalum Marshall Shaw who died on 24 October 2022 at Bengaluru. Interested parties are hereby warranted to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on 13-02-2023 at 11 a.m. in the forenoon to show cause against the Petitioner failing wherein the matter will be heard and determined exparte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl No.	Name of Company	Folio No/ Client ID	Demat Account Details/DPID	Number of Shares	Current Value of the Shares in INR
1.	Biocon Limited	30438973	In301926 Held with IIFL Limited	8445348	322.61 Crores

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE COURT THIS 12th DAY OF JANUARY, 2023.

By Order of the Court
Asst. Registrar
City Civil Court
Bengaluru.

Advocate for Petitioner:-
Mr. Nikhil Krishnamurthy & Ms. Rashmi Deshpande
Advocates
Krishnamurthy & Co
4th Floor, Prestige Takt
#23, Kasturba Cross Road
Bengaluru - 560 001

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Ballari Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.: KPCL/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT13396 Date:20.01.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate bids are invited through e-procurement portal **(Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** from Bidders / Agencies / Firms / Manufacturers and adequate experience in execution of similar works and financial turnover for **Supply & Fixing of LED Luminaries at High Masts and Bunker area in CHP".** EMD : **Rs. 92,416/-** Last date and time for receipt of tender: **09.02.2023**. Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer (CHP) Electrical-1, BTPS, KPCL**, Kudathini-583 152, Ballari Dist. Mobile: 9480830364.

RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Bangalore Rural,
Beerasandra, Devanahalli Taluk. E-mail: eerdwsd.bngr1@gmail.com
Phone: 080-29787463 (M) 9448367736

ಸಂ: ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ.ಸೌವಿ/ಬೆಂ.ಗ್ರಾ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.01.2023

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 31/2022-23/2384 Date: 20.01.2023
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders are invited on behalf of Governer of Karnataka according to KTTP Act 2000 through E-procurement Portal for the works under **2021-22 2215 H/A under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to Provide FHTCs to House Holds in Bangalore Rural District.** (Standard Tender Document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4) Application & EMD Payment to be done through E-Procurement Portal.

General Conditions: (1) Contractor has to upload Document in online only (2) All qualifying documents has to be attached in online.

(1) Tender Schedule can be downloaded from website: **23.01.2023 after 4.00 PM (2)** Last date for tender uploading: **30.01.2023 Upto 4.00 PM (3)** Date of opening of Tender / Technical Bid: **31.01.2023 at 04.05 PM. (4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **01.02.2023 at 04.05 PM.**

More details can be taken from the office of the undersigned and also through **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.

Sd/-
(S.M. Subhan Saheb)
Executive Engineer,
RDW&S Division, Bangalore Rural.
DIPR/CP/4239/AAA/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-01. Telephone No. 080-22133370 Fax No. 080-22133365. Email ID: cepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. (www.kpwd.gov.in)

Tender Notification No. 46/2022-23 Dt- 20.01.2023

Item-rate tenders, for the work in Nelamangala Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per e- procurement procedure. Tender Notification are Published for 01 work **(Rs.200.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in E-procurement portal.** Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement.

1. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **Dated: 20.01.2023 onwards.** 2. Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or **before 16:00 hours on dated 04.02.2023.** 3. The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on **dated 06.02.2023 at 16.30 hours** or further date and time will be Intimate. **For more details contact this office.**

Executive Engineer,
PWD Bangalore Division, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/RO4221/AAPL/2022-23

'Lost' interview of Georges Lemaître rediscovered

The Hindu Bureau

In February 1964, a broadcaster in Belgium aired an interview with a Catholic priest named Georges Lemaître (1894-1966). The footage was subsequently thought lost after it went missing from the broadcaster's archives.

But on December 31, 2022, the broadcaster in Belgium reported that it had rediscovered the video and that the video could not be found earlier because it had been misclassified.

It also published the 20-minute conversation on its website, prompting a flurry of interest across the world. But why?

Big Bang theory

It was because Lemaître was the originator of the Big Bang theory of the universe's origin and derived an important law that cosmologists still use to understand the motion of galaxies away from each other.

The interview is likely to have been his Georges Lemaître's public lecture, of sorts.

On January 17, researchers in the United States published a transcript of the original interview, in French, online together with an English translation.

Two tidbits from the interview are particularly interesting.

First, Lemaître discusses the arguments by which the Big Bang theory replaced steady state theory, under which Fred Hoyle and others claimed that the universe was static, that the galaxies that were there had always just been there.

Steady state theory

As Lemaître recounts with some dramatic flair, Hoyle had difficulty explaining the presence of hydrogen in the early universe. Hydrogen was required to form the first stars and galaxies and had to come from somewhere, but the steady state theory couldn't say where. In Lemaître's telling, Hoyle resorted to claims that Lemaître said he couldn't picture.

Second, Lemaître responds to a question about what the Big Bang theory implies for his religious beliefs by focusing on the moment of our universe's creation: "When one poses the problem of the beginning of the world, one is almost always faced with a rather essential difficulty: to ask oneself, why did it begin at that moment? Why did not it start a little earlier?"

His answer: "The beginning is so... different from the present state of the world that such a question does not arise."

Lemaître also agrees vehemently with the interviewer when the latter says that god should not have to explain the movement of galaxies: "It goes without saying!"

Why India has not witnessed any surge in cases for months

Daily cases are low despite the newer Omicron subvariants, recombinants possessing greater immune escape and transmissibility

R. Prasad

The third wave in India that began in the first week of January 2022, driven primarily by the BA.1 Omicron sub-lineage, peaked at around 3,38,000 new infections on January 21, and came to an end by the first week of March 2022. Except for a short period – mid-June to mid-August – after the third wave, India has not witnessed even an uptick in new infections in 2022. The relative calm in India comes even when new Omicron subvariants and recombinants with ever increasing ability to evade immune responses and greater transmissibility have emerged at regular intervals last year.

While low levels of testing might wrongly indicate low virus spread in the population, the low test positivity rate and low levels of the virus in wastewater or sewage water surveillance strongly suggest that virus circulation is indeed low in India.

"The hybrid immunity – natural infection and vaccination induced immunity – is the reason that there has not been an uptick in COVID-19 cases in India. An estimated 95% of India's population above 12 years of age has developed hybrid immunity. India's situation of hybrid immunity is arguably the best possible protection against SARS-CoV-2," says Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, consultant physician and an epidemiologist.

Citing a systematic review published recently in *The Lancet*, Dr. Giridhara Babu, epidemiologist at the Public Health Foundation of India, Bengaluru, says hybrid immunity from vaccination (both primary, and primary plus booster dose) and previous infection has provided sufficient protection against reinfection for people in India.

"Individuals with hybrid immunity had the highest magnitude and durability of protection [against Omicron variant], and as a result might be able to extend the period before booster vaccinations are needed compared to individuals who have never been infected," says *The Lancet* review.

Explaining the absence of surges last year, Dr. Vinod Scaria, a senior scientist at Delhi's Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), says that though greater immune escape by Omicron subvariants indeed make people susceptible to reinfections, the resulting infection is self-limiting and most often asymptomatic, thus possibly not being tested or recorded.

What makes the absence of new infections surging after the third wave ended is the relative ease with which the Omicron subvariant BA.2.75, which was first detected in India, caused cases to spike between mid-June and mid-August last year; the subvariants and recombinants of Omicron that emerged after BA.2.75 have even greater immune escape and transmissibility but have not caused any spike in cases.

"Epidemiologically, only those people who were not exposed to Omicron till then developed symptomatic infection by BA.2.75," says Dr. Lahariya. "In the third wave, 60-65% of the population was exposed to Omicron. This means 35-40% of the population still remained susceptible to Omicron."

"After high vaccination rates, the rise in cases due to BA.2.75 has been ironically advantageous; despite escaping the immune response, it has managed to infect most people without causing severe disease. In retrospect, the population in India may have had a better immune profile against XBB.1.5 due to hybrid immunity," Dr. Babu says in an email.

Explaining the low level of daily fresh cases seen for most part of 2022, Dr. Scaria says, "If everyone were vaccinated or infected at a short interval, almost all would lose the antibodies at almost the same time making them possibly susceptible. If a constant but low percentage of people are being infected, it would mean that a majority of people have varying levels of immunity. So only a subset of individuals is susceptible at any point in time."

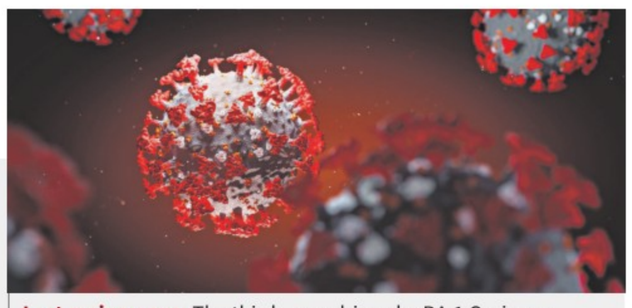
Besides hybrid immunity, Dr. Lahariya cites another possible reason for the low daily fresh cases due to Omicron subvariants and recombinants. People who have been exposed to Omicron BA.1 and/or BA.2.75 may have a specific type of antibodies against other Omicron subvariants. Now, if they are infected again, the potential of the virus multiplying in their nose and throat going further deep down in lungs is low, he says. That has two implications – people will not develop severe disease, and the amount of virus they pass on will be less, thus reducing the risk to others.

While Dr. Lahariya says that COVID-19 waves in India in the future will be small, mostly unpredictable and clinically not relevant. "In the absence of emergence of a new variant of concern, it might be impossible to differentiate between seasonal flu and COVID-19," he says.

India sails without symptomatic cases surging

Since mid-August 2022, daily fresh cases in India has remained very low without any spikes

- Surge in cases after the third wave was seen between mid-June and mid-August 2022; it was caused by Omicron subvariant BA.2.75
- Even newer Omicron subvariants and recombinants with greater immune escape and transmissibility have not caused any case surge since mid-August
- Hybrid immunity from natural infection and vaccination has apparently provided sufficient protection against reinfection for people in India
- An estimated 95% of India's population above 12 years of age has developed hybrid immunity



Last major wave: The third wave driven by BA.1 Omicron sub-lineage peaked at around 3,38,000 new infections on January 21, 2022.

- Vaccination followed by infection by BA.1 during the third wave and BA.2.75 in mid-2022 may have provided better immune profile against other Omicron subvariants and recombinants
- A constant but low percentage of people being infected would mean that a majority of people have varying levels of immunity. So, only a subset of individuals is susceptible at any point in time
- People infected with Omicron subvariants might have low viral loads thus, not suffering from severe disease and not spreading the virus to others

What led to unusually low temperature at Ooty's Fingerpost?

Vasudevan Mukunth

At around 7 a.m. on January 14, as the day before Pongal dawned on Udhagamandalam, a local temperature gauge measured a frigid ground temperature of -6.3 degree celsius in the Fingerpost locality. The Government Botanical Garden said it was sprinkling water on the ground and covering flowering plants with another bushy plant to remove the rime.

Subzero temperatures

The ground in other parts of Udhagamandalam had reached subzero temperatures as well. The lowest ambient temperature in the day was a more tolerable 1.7 degree celsius. What had caused the mercury to dip so low in Fingerpost?

The answer, as is often the case with the weather in the 21st century, begins somewhere else on the planet: the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

"We are in a La Niña winter," Raghu Murtugudde, a visiting professor at IIT Bombay and an emeritus professor at the University of Maryland, said. This means heady winds blow warm water on the sea surface away from the South American mainland, roughly off the coast of Ecuador.

This heat movement across the Pacific has global consequences. Over India, the La Niña can intensify summer monsoons, bring excess rainfall, and cause colder winters.

In early 2022, the World Meteorological Organisation said the ongoing La Niña is the first in the 21st century to span three consecutive winters. But in a break from convention, the coldness is deeper in the south. This reveals the second driver.

La Niña is the opposite of El Niño, in which equatorial waters off the South American coast become unusually warmer. One effect is that in winter, the subtropical westerly jet over North India is pushed southward, allowing the western disturbance to create cold winters in the north. But in La Niña years, there is a 'highway' of chill wind coming southward from the Siberian High, "a cold, high-pressure block [of air] that is occupying the central Asian region and affecting winds coming into India," says Prof. Murtugudde.

Frigid: Local temperature in the Fingerpost locality on January 14 was –6.3 degree celsius. M. SATHYAMOORTHY

'Anomalously strong'

The Siberian High is responsible for the bitter-cold of the tundra and has been known to affect the weather from Italy to the Philippines. But this time, according to him, it is "anomalously strong".

It's harder to simulate or predict hyperlocal conditions, but by and large, the La Niña winter plus a very strong Siberian High conspired to create a cooler-than-normal winter in South India. The temperature further dropped in Tamil Nadu's interior areas, thanks to the withdrawal of the northeast monsoons from January 12, which allowed the cooler dry-land winds to strengthen.

Taken together, Udhagamandalam, a hill station, normally has lows of 5-10 degree celsius but on January 14, it experienced a low of 1.7 degree celsius and a ground temperature lower than 0 degree celsius in some parts.

Low pressure trough

Unlike the El Niño-driven cold air that sweeps India between the southeast and the northwest, in La Niña years "the winds mostly tend to come from the north and zip down the pressure trough far into peninsular India," Prof. Murtugudde said.

So they cover more area and affect more people.

Scientists expect climate change to affect El Niño and La Niña, but the precise mechanisms are under study.

Predictions of the seasonal weather over India are further complicated by the temperature of the Indian Ocean, the monsoons, local wind systems, and the fate of the Himalayan glaciers, among others.

SNAPSHOTS

Genes that made whales to grow to giant sizes identified

New research reveals the genes that likely allowed whales to grow to giant sizes compared to their ancestors (*Scientific Reports*). The findings highlight the role of four genes – GHSR, IGFBP7, NCAPG, and PLAG1 – and suggest that they promote large body sizes. The researchers performed molecular evolutionary analysis on nine candidate genes: five genes from the growth hormone, and four genes associated with increased body size in hoofed animals. They assessed these genes in 19 species of whale.

A powerful laser in the sky helps divert lightning strikes

A powerful laser aimed at the sky can create a virtual lightning rod and divert the path of lightning strikes, a new study (*Nature Photonics*) demonstrates. The findings may pave the way for better lightning protection methods for critical infrastructure. The most common lightning protection device is the Franklin rod, an electrically conducting metal mast that intercepts lightning discharges and guides them to the ground. Acting as a virtual, movable rod, a laser beam directed at sky could offer an alternative.

Extinctions may threaten Madagascar's biodiversity

Madagascar's biodiversity could take millions of years to recover to levels before the arrival of humans if threatened animal species become extinct (*Nature Communications*). The findings suggest that immediate conservation efforts are needed to avoid long-lasting biodiversity losses. Madagascar is home to a unique set of animal species, including the ring-tailed lemur, and the world's smallest chameleon. Many species may face extinction, owing to human influences.

Question Corner

Roman concrete

Why was Roman concrete so durable?

The remains of vast networks of roads, aqueducts, ports, and massive buildings of ancient Romans have survived for two millennia. Many of these structures were built with concrete: Rome's famed Pantheon, which has the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome and was dedicated in 128 A.D., is still intact.

Researchers have spent decades trying to figure out the secret of this ultra durable ancient construction material, particularly in structures that endured harsh conditions, such as docks, sewers, and seawalls.

A team of investigators from the MIT, the Harvard University, and laboratories in Italy and Switzerland, has made progress in this field, discovering ancient concrete-manufacturing strategies, says a release. Besides pozzolanic material such as volcanic ash from the area of Pozzuoli on the Bay of Naples, they found small millimeter-scale bright white mineral features – lime clasts – which have been long recognised as a ubiquitous component of Roman concretes.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Why did China lift hold on Makki terror listing?

What will happen to the deputy chief of the Laskhar-e-Taiba after being put on the UNSC list of global terrorists?

Suhasini Haidar

The story so far:

On January 16, the United Nations Security Council announced it had placed Abdur Rehman Makki, the Pakistan-based deputy chief of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the brother-in-law of 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed, on its 1267 List of Designated Terrorists. The move was welcomed by India, who along with the U.S. had jointly proposed Makki's name for UN sanctions in June last year, where China put a "hold" on it.

What did the joint proposal say?

According to the joint submission in June 2022, which has now been accepted (Makki is al-Qaida Designated Individuals QDi 433), 69-year-old Abdul (Abdur) Rehman Makki has been the "Deputy Amir" of the LeT and head of its Political Affairs Wing. India has specifically held Makki responsible for a number of terror attacks in the past including the Red Fort attack, 26/11 Mumbai attacks, a number of terror strikes in Jammu Kashmir and for radicalising youth to fight against Indian forces. India had placed Makki on its "most wanted terrorists" UAPA list, while the U.S. named him a specially designated global terrorist in 2010, announcing a two million dollar reward for information that would lead to his prosecution.

Why was the listing stalled and how did China relent?

In June 2022, China put what is called a technical hold on the designation of Makki, saying it needed more time to process the information in the proposal against him. This was not a one-off: China has consistently put blocks on the designation of Pakistan-based terror group leaders of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) over the last few years. Although China had accepted these nominations from 2001-2010 with designations of a number of LeT, JeM organisations and individuals like Hafiz Saeed and Zaki Ur Rahman Lakhvi, it put obstacles for others like Masood Azhar (finally designated in 2019) and others including Makki. China placed holds on the designations of four other individuals whom India and the U.S. had proposed listing in 2022. While acknowledging the shift in its position, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said it had decided to lift the hold after ascertaining that [Makki] had been convicted and sentenced in Pakistan, and called it a "recognition" of Pakistan's counter-terror efforts.

> Despite the restrictions, Makki was able to broadcast a video from Kot Lakhpat jail this week, denying any links with al-Qaeda, ISIS or other terror groups

While speculation abounds about the shift in policy, one reason may be that China wishes to make amends with India given nearly three years of tensions over the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Another is that it did not wish to be seen as the single country opposing a resolution on an important issue like terrorism. China's decision may also indicate some behind-the-scenes negotiations with India, which would become apparent if Beijing makes similiar U-turns on the decisions to hold the other four listings. The Ministry of External Affairs this week said regardless of the reasons for the shift, it welcomed the decision to ban Makki, and will try its best to ensure the other four are listed too, including LeT recruiters and handlers Shahid Mehmood and Hafiz Saeed's son Talha Saeed as well as JeM deputy and Masood Azhar's brother Abdul Rauf Azhar (Asghar).

Where is Makki now?

In 2019, Pakistan federal agencies arrested Makki on terror financing charges, and he was convicted in 2020 and sentenced to six months to a year in prison. However, Pakistani officials have reportedly kept him in prison since then while he is being investigated on other terror charges. This is because Pakistan was asked to give commitments on prosecuting terrorists by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) that had kept Pakistan on a grey-listing until last year. Now that Makki has been put on the UNSC list, it remains to be seen whether he will face more charges, and even whether he would be able to post bail given that the UNSC mandates Pakistan to ensure designated terrorists do not receive access to funds, travel or weapons.

Despite these restrictions, however, Makki was able to broadcast a video from Kot Lakhpat jail this week, denying any links with al-Qaeda, ISIS or other terror groups. For India, the Makki designation is only one initial step as ensuring the implementation of UNSC designations and stopping the terrorists from accessing any resources requires some level of cooperation or engagement with Pakistan, which at the moment is non-existent.

Why is China's population shrinking?

To what extent is the 'one-child policy' responsible? Why has the country now announced a 'three-child policy' including financial inducements? Will this help stop the slide?

Ananth Krishnan

The story so far:

China's National Bureau of Statistics announced on January 17, 2023 that the country's population had fallen by 8,50,000 in the year 2022. This marked the first decline since 1961, when the country was in the midst of a four-year famine following the failed 'Great Leap Forward' campaign. Demographers say that with China's population now having peaked, India is set to become the most populous nation this year.

What the reasons for this trend?

Birth rates in China have declined since the 1980s and in the wake of the "one-child policy", which introduced harsh measures such as forced abortions and high financial penalties. The Chinese government still defends the policy, arguing it spared China an additional 400 million births. But critics of the policy say the estimate is an exaggeration, when considering declining family sizes over time in many countries along with economic development and without similarly harsh measures, and when factoring into account the policy's legacy of leaving behind a rapidly ageing society.

If the one-child policy and its legacy has been one major factor, a second one, as pointed out by Barclay Bram of the Asia Society Policy Institute in a January 2023 paper, is that "young Chinese are marrying later, having fewer children, or forgoing having children altogether", with the number of couples who married in China dropping from 13.46 million to 8.14 million in the period from 2013 to 2020.

Meanwhile, the average age of first-time parents, in the three decade-period from 1990-2020, rose from 24.1 to 27.5. With a growing preference for getting married and starting families later, couples are choosing to have fewer children. In 2022, for the first time the number of births fell below the number of deaths. Births last year were 9.56 million, a more than 10% drop from 2021.

How has the Chinese government responded to the population crisis?

To arrest the slide, Beijing finally abandoned the one-child policy in 2016 – by then, the policy had, in any case, included many exceptions, for instance for couples who were both only children or in rural areas for families where the first child was a daughter.

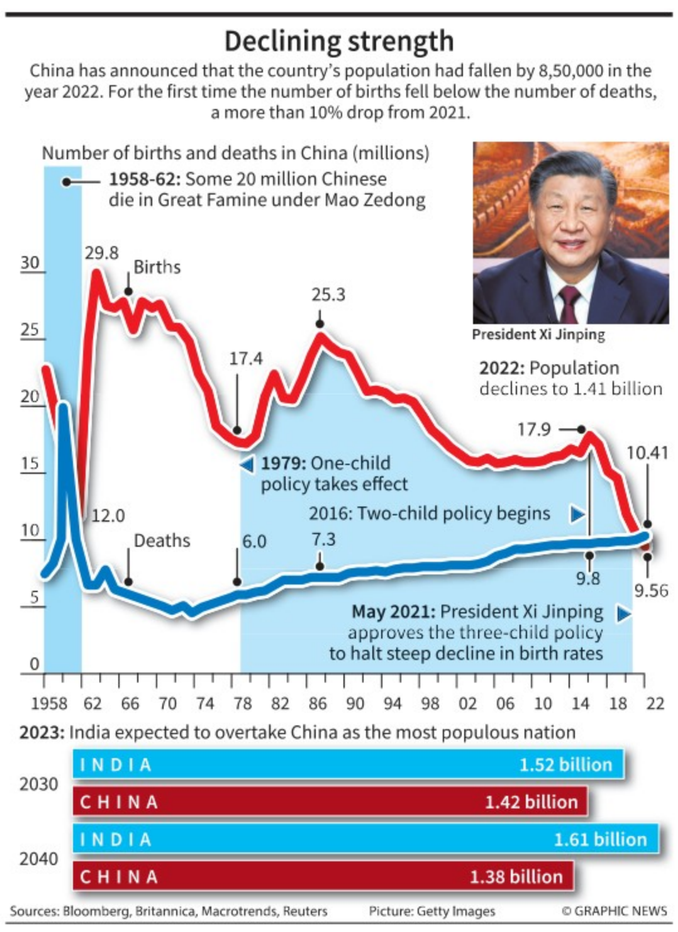
> The size of China's labour force already peaked in 2011 at 925 million

The "two-child policy" introduced that year, however, failed to elicit the desired response. A government survey conducted that year found 70% attributed high costs of healthcare and education as a factor.

Ahead of the rollout of the current five-year plan (2021-25), the Politburo discussed "major policy measures to actively address the ageing of population" and in 2021 rolled out a "three-child policy" including financial inducements for families with three children. It has also pledged to address the economic factors such as healthcare costs and education expenses, for instance by cracking down on expensive private education companies, which had become a booming industry.

Harder to address, however, are the widening personal preferences for smaller families, a trend seen globally which also likely explains why the policies rolled out by China, as well as other countries such as Japan, have had limited impact in encouraging the public to have larger families.

A more realistic policy emphasis, some scholars have suggested, would be to deal with what appears to be an inevitable trend following Japan's experience, and to consider, for a start, raising the retirement age from the current 60 for men and 55 for women.



What will be the impact on China's economy?

China's 16-59 working age population has continued to decline. As of the end of 2022, the number was 875 million, or 62% of the total population, down by around 75 million from 2010.

The above-60 population was 280 million, or 20% of the total population, an increase of around 30 million in the same period. By 2050, the Chinese government estimates, the above-60 population will account for as much as 35% of the total population. According to China's National Working Commission on Ageing, healthcare spending on this group will rise to 26% of the GDP by 2050, up from 7% in 2015.

A major concern is the economic impact of a shrinking workforce.

The size of China's labour force already peaked in 2011 at 925 million, and is likely to drop to 700 million by 2050. The glut of labour from the rural heartland that powered China's factories is already drying up. With wages rising, many factories in the lower end of the manufacturing spectrum are already moving out to Southeast Asia and Bangladesh. Chinese companies like e-commerce giant JD are already investing heavily in automation to deal with the coming labour crunch.

Articles in the Chinese media have recently expressed longer term anxieties about factories moving out to India, that will this year become the world's most populous country with a demographic dividend and labour force of a profile similar in age to China's in 1980.

India's plan to eradicate measles, rubella

Will the country be able to achieve the new target of 2023? Why was the earlier goal of 2020 unattainable? How fatal are the viruses? What needs to be done with the vaccination programme? What are the various challenges India's health system faces?

Ramya Kannan

The story so far:

As the new year dawned, so did a crucial target for India. India had set a target to eliminate measles and rubella (MR) by 2023, having missed the earlier deadline of 2020, due to a variety of reasons, exacerbated by disruptions due to the pandemic. An earlier target that was set for 2015 was also missed. It was in 2019 that India adopted the goal of measles and rubella elimination by 2023, anticipating that the 2020 goal could not be reached.

Why is this target crucial?

The measles virus is one of the world's most contagious human viruses that kills more than 1,00,000 children every year globally, and rubella is a leading vaccine-preventable cause of birth defects, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Both measles and rubella can be prevented by just two doses of a safe and effective vaccine. Over the past two decades, the measles vaccine is estimated to have averted more than 30 million deaths globally, as per the WHO's statistics. In both diseases, the symptoms are a rash and fever. While measles has a high fatality rate, rubella infection in a pregnant woman will have an impact on the foetus, resulting in birth defects.

What happened in 2022?

From October 2022, an outbreak of measles in Maharashtra, particularly Mumbai, had the authorities worried. As per media reports at least 15 children died among several hundreds who contracted the infection. Coming at the cusp of a year in which India had a crucial target to achieve, it perturbed authorities.

> By increasing surveillance India can reach MR elimination goals, says WHO

Dr. Jacob John, noted virologist who heads the India Experts Advisory Group for eliminating MR, equates it to a phenomenon similar to COVID-19 infections catching up in China end of last year, since they had 'escaped the previous waves of infection.' "It is a similar phenomenon, because during the winter months of 2020 and 2021 (November to January when there is the usual spurt in cases of measles) there were no outbreaks," he said. The 2022 outbreak was like epidemiological compensation. However, experts aver that this outbreak will contribute to ramping up herd immunity in the population which along with a robust vaccination programme will help achieve the necessary targets.

What has India done to achieve targets?

Though the pandemic led to poor immunisation rates, in a paper, Progress Toward Measles and Rubella Elimination – India, 2005-2021, published on the CDC website, Ratnesh Murugan and others explain the paths the country had taken in getting to where it stands now. During 2010-2013, India conducted a phased measles catch-up immunisation for children aged 9 months-10 years in 14 States, vaccinating approximately 119 million children.

Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014 to ramp up vaccinating the unvaccinated population. During 2017-2021, India adopted a national strategic plan for measles and rubella elimination, and introduced rubella-containing vaccine (RCV) into the routine immunisation programme, besides launching a nationwide measles-rubella supplementary immunisation activity (SIA) catch-up campaign. It also transitioned from outbreak-based surveillance to case-based acute fever and rash surveillance, and more than doubled the number of laboratories in the measles-rubella network.

Is the target to eliminate MR achievable?

"Yes, I would think so," said Dr. Jacob John. "The main concern is the under one-year population. But if we are able to keep up the tempo of immunisation at 95 % the second dose coverage (which means the first dose coverage has to be higher), it will be possible."

But the trick, he pointed out, is to do it district by district – give each district a target to achieve the required rate of immunisation, conduct a robust fever and rash surveillance programme, besides testing for MR. He said a well-oiled machinery rests in place, and it is possible to be free of the disease as some other countries have recently demonstrated, including Sri Lanka, the Maldives and South Korea. "My expectation is that 95% will succeed. But what we must remember is that even if 5% miss the target, it is not as if the whole country has failed, we would have indeed achieved significant gains. Besides if we keep monitoring the progress, the districts that are stragglers in implementing the immunisation, can be helped along, with additional inputs," he contended.

In the process, C.S. Rex Sargunam, paediatrician and president, Tamil Nadu Health Development Association, said it is important to provide full support to the ground level staff who implement the programme – the village health nurses, ASHA (accredited social health activists) workers, anganwadi and ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) workers. "In fact the only way to ensure a target driven approach is successful is to make sure that the people given the tasks are happy doing their job. We do need to improve their service conditions, and make sure salaries are not pending for months."

He said that while targets will be easier to achieve in States such as Tamil Nadu and Kerala, thanks to the robust immunisation infrastructure, in the other States, additional efforts should be taken to work towards achieving the target.

The WHO has expressed hope that India could indeed reach the target. "We can reach MR elimination goals in India if we strengthen surveillance by finding, investigating, and collecting and testing a sample for every suspected case, in each district in every State and UT," said Roderico H. Ofrin, WHO Country Representative to India. Experts underlined the importance of being thorough in public health outreach. As Prabhdeep Kaur, deputy director, National Institute of Epidemiology, ICMR, said: "A threat of infection anywhere is a threat everywhere."

Action plan: A measles-rubella vaccination camp by BMC health department inside the Bainganwadi slums in Govandi. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The woman who defied realpolitik

Jacinda Ardern

New Zealand's Prime Minister, who announced her resignation citing burnout, offered an alternative leadership model rooted in a moral vision rather than political opportunism and rose to become a global hero of liberalism

G. Sampath

On January 19, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, 42, stunned the world by announcing her resignation. Fighting back tears, she said that February 7 will be her last day in office. She added she wouldn't seek re-election when the country goes to the polls on October 14.

The only explanation she would offer for her decision was to say, "I am leaving because with such a privileged role, comes responsibility, the responsibility to know when you are the right person to lead and also when you are not... I know what this job takes and I know that I no longer have enough in the tank to do it justice. It is that simple." Understandably, speculation is rife about the 'real reason' for her exit.

In the previous general elections of 2020 – New Zealand has a three-year election cycle – Ms. Ardern had been re-elected in a landslide of historic proportions. Her popularity, following her successful handling of the pandemic, was at its peak.

But in the post-pandemic months, it did seem like the law of averages had caught up with her, with a host of domestic issues dogging her second term. Record levels of inflation, a housing affordability crisis, rising crime rates, and a backlash against progressive policy initiatives – a climate tax on agricultural emissions that could affect farmers, empowering indigenous communities, an ambitious plan to overhaul the country's water infrastructure, legislation to curb hate speech – have seen the centre-right New Zealand National Party overtake Labour in poll ratings. At the same time, although her popularity had dipped, she remained the most preferred politician to lead the country. There was nothing inevitable about her exit. The same, however, cannot be said about her ascent, as she seemed marked out for the country's top post from an early age.

Born into a working class Mormon family – her father was a police officer and her mother, a school cafeteria worker – Ms. Ardern was labelled "most likely to become Prime Minister" even in high school. She joined the Labour party at the age of 17. After graduating in Communication Studies with majors in politics and public relations, she picked up political experience at the highest level working with the then Prime Minister Helen Clarke, and later in the Cabinet office of British PM Tony Blair.

Notwithstanding her stint under Mr. Blair – she would later question him about the 2003 Iraq war at an event in 2011 – her political views, Ms. Ardern says, were shaped by her exposure to child poverty, homelessness, alcohol and drug-dependency, and general deprivation in her country's rural communities. She is a self-proclaimed social democrat and feminist with strong progressive principles – principles that she sought to uphold in public life. For instance, in her 20s, long before she became Prime Minister, Ms. Ardern renounced her faith, quitting the Mormon church because she believed in equal rights for LGBT people.

Rise to the top

After becoming the youngest sitting MP in the New Zealand Parliament in 2008, it took Ms. Ardern less than a decade to reach the top. She was elected the leader of Labour 2017, just before the elections. Her elevation triggered an avalanche of donations to the party and catapulted Labour above the New Zealand National Party in ratings for the first time in a decade. Given that her positions were not very different from that of her predecessor, observers attributed the upswing in Labour's fortunes to Ms. Ardern's charisma and personal popularity – what came to be known as 'Jacindamania'.

In August 2017, at the age of 37, Ms. Ardern became one of the world's youngest Prime Ministers, heading a coalition with the populist New Zealand First party. After taking the reins, Ms. Ardern announced that she wanted her country – although a small one with limited influence – to provide moral leadership on the global stage. On this aspect, there is little doubt Ms. Ardern stands out among world leaders for walking the talk.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

She ushered in a fresh brand of gendered leadership marked by sensitivity, empathy, and concern for vulnerable minorities. On the flip side, it also made her a target for misogyny and sexism in a realm dominated by men. She became only the second Prime Minister in history, after Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto, to give birth while in office. Liberals and feminists were delighted when she announced on Twitter that her partner, TV celebrity Clarke Gayford, would become "stay at home dad". She went on six weeks maternity leave after making her Deputy PM the acting PM – underscoring that even world leaders are human and ought not to pretend otherwise.

The first big test of her premiership came when the pandemic struck. Her exemplary handling of the crisis – she acted fast to close her country's borders before a single case was detected and made stringent quarantine requirements – helped keep COVID-related death rates in New Zealand one of the lowest in the Western world. In stark contrast to the hectoring press briefings of U.S. President Donald Trump, Ms. Ardern conducted informal Facebook Live chats that provided reliable information as well as reassurance for citizens forced into unprecedented, extended isolation.

But what made her a darling of the global centre-left, and led many to consider her a model antidote to rightwing populism rising around the world was her response to the deadly Christchurch shootings in which a white supremacist attacked two mosques, killing 51 people. Ms. Ardern completely ignored the familiar script that politicians tend to follow in such situations: there was no attempt to present the attack as a 'war' on the nation or on 'our way of life', no characterising the terrorist act as 'cowardly', no attempt to dehumanise the killer, and most importantly, no attempt to construct an 'us' vs 'them' narrative of rage and retribution. Instead, Ms. Ardern wore a hijab and went to mourn with the grieving families. By keeping the focus on the victims rather than the perpetrator, she brought a healing touch to an otherwise tense, polarising moment. She followed this up by expanding gun control regulations - unthinkable in the U.S. despite dozens of mass shooting incidents every year – and bringing new legislation to curb hate speech.

Leadership election

But after nearly six years on the job, Ms. Ardern seems to have concluded she no longer has what it takes. The Labour party is scheduled to hold a meeting on January 22 to elect a new leader. It is being speculated that the party might go for someone more combative, less 'soft' to take on an aggressive Opposition.

Some believe Ms. Ardern's decision might have been sparked by an urge to prioritise her commitment to her family. She did mention in her resignation speech that her four-year-old daughter would start school this year and she wanted to "finally" get married to her partner. But perhaps there is also something to be said for taking her explanation at face value: maybe, Ms. Ardern resigned because she really believes she can no longer do justice to her job. After all, her biggest legacy is of a politician who made it cool to do the right thing. In a world where politics is synonymous with realpolitik, she demonstrated that politics informed by a moral vision – doing the right thing rather than what best suits one's interests – is not unthinkable. Maybe, by resigning, she was simply trying to do the right thing – by her family, her party, and her country.

THE GIST

- After becoming the youngest sitting MP in the New Zealand Parliament in 2008, it took Jacinda Ardern less than a decade to reach the top — she was elected the leader of Labour in 2017
- In August 2017, at the age of 37, Ardern became one of the world's youngest Prime Ministers, heading a coalition with the populist New Zealand First party
- After taking the reins of the government, Ardern announced that she wanted her country — although a small one with limited influence — to provide moral leadership on the global stage
- The first big test of Ardern's premiership came when the pandemic struck and her handling of the crisis made her immensely popular, leading her to sweep the 2020 elections

A promise of devolution

13th Amendment

Sri Lanka's failure to fully implement the amendment is a reminder of the Sinhalese establishment's apparent insecurity over sharing power

Meera Srinivasan

If an Indian leader or top official makes a statement on Sri Lanka, it would invariably mention one piece of legislation in Sri Lanka's Constitution – the 13th Amendment. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who was in Colombo earlier this week, said he shared India's "considered view" with President Ranil Wickremesinghe that the full implementation of the 13th Amendment was "critical" for power devolution.

Sri Lanka's current Constitution, adopted in 1978, has had 21 amendments to date, but arguably, none as controversial as this. Passed in November 1987, months after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene signed the Indo-Lanka Accord, the 13th Amendment is the only legislative guarantee of a measure of power devolution to the island's provinces. It provided for setting up provincial governments across the country – there are nine provincial councils – and made Tamil, too, an official language, and English, a link language.

It was, in some measure, an antidote to the 'Sinhala Only Act' of 1956, one of the most discriminatory laws passed targeting the island's Tamil minorities, after the Ceylon Citizenship Act of 1948 that rendered Sri Lanka's Malaiyaha Tamils of Indian origin stateless. It also sought to address the Tamils' right to self-determination which, by the 1980s, had become a raging political call. With the 1983 anti-Tamil pogrom laying bare violent Sinhala majoritarianism, it was hard for the world and India not to appreciate a legitimate demand.

However, for successive governments, devolving power was hardly on their 'must do' list. Despite public promises, leaders from the Sinhala-majority south failed to implement in letter and spirit what was already in the Constitution. Detractors construe the 13th Amendment as an "Indian imposition", despite it being an outcome of a bilateral Accord signed by J. R. Jayewardene.

The provincial councils function, but nominally. The rule book gave provinces legislative power over agriculture, education, health, housing, local government, planning, road transport and social services. But an ambiguous concurrent list and overriding clauses in the Constitution allow the Centre to remain all-powerful. The executive President still wields enormous power and the provincial Governors possess similar power at the regional level.

Grip on power

Colombo is especially wary of sharing land and police powers, and resolutely controls the subjects. In the absence of a sound argument, legal or political, to justify this centralised grip on power, it can only imply that the island's southern leaders are reluctant to share power with the Tamil minorities, as well as their own people governing the provinces. For 36 years since its passage, the failure to fully implement the 13th Amendment is an enduring reminder of the Sinhalese establishment's apparent insecurity over sharing power, or as many Tamils would argue, intrinsic racism. To those opposed to Tamils holding any power, the 13th Amendment embodies "too much power" to part with.

For the Tamils, on the other hand, the 13th Amendment is too little. The LTTE rejected it. Among the current Tamil polity, almost all see it as inadequate.

The problem, though, is not just to do with the Amendment, but Sri Lanka's unitary Constitution, Tamils argue. In a letter to Mr. Jaishankar, Jaffna legislator and leader of the Tamil National People's Front, Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam, said that ever since the 13th Amendment was introduced, the Tamils have rejected it on the grounds that for as long as the structure of the State remains Unitary, no meaningful autonomy and self-government can be achieved.

In its recent meeting with President Wickremesinghe, the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) has outlined five steps to immediately implement the Amendment in full, including by reversing certain laws that reduced provincial powers. They see it as a starting point for negotiating greater power sharing and a final political settlement. Belated, insufficient, but necessary, in their view.

In search of an alliance

K. Chandrasekhar Rao

The Telangana Chief Minister wants to counter the BJP at home and build a federal front of regional parties at the Centre

B. Chandrashekhar

"He (K. Chandrasekhar Rao) is the only leader in Telangana who has got the commitment and perseverance to carry on the movement for statehood and rebuild the State after achieving it, in spite of he having some shortcomings", Telangana ideologue Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar observed at an event during the thick of the agitation for statehood in 2010.

True to late Jayashankar's reading, Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhar Rao, popularly known as KCR, has exhibited resilience from the day he quit as the Deputy Speaker of Legislative Assembly and an MLA of the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on April 27, 2001 in united Andhra Pradesh to the recent public meeting of non-Congress and non-BJP parties in Khammam.

KCR continues to make headlines and hog limelight with his innovative initiatives, controversial comments and surprising policy decisions such as going for early Assembly elections in 2018. He floated the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) with the objective of achieving statehood for Telangana on the day he quit the TDP in 2001. Announcing its arrival on the political landscape of Telangana, the TRS registered an impressive performance in the rural local bodies elections in Siddipet in 2001.

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

Political setbacks

Beginning his political career with the Youth Congress in the late 1970s in the erstwhile Medak district, KCR was among those first to join the TDP, launched by matinee idol N.T. Rama Rao in 1982. He was unsuccessful in his first shot at the Assembly election from Siddipet in 1983. However, after that, he has not tasted defeat – either in the Assembly or Lok Sabha elections.

Like any of his peers, KCR faced several political setbacks in the early years of the TRS. In 2006, half of the 26 party MLAs deserted and allied with the Congress. In the 2008 by-election from the Karimnagar Lok Sabha seat, he struggled to take a wafer-thin majority victory. In the 2009 Assembly elections, the TRS won only 10 out of the 45 seats it contested in an alliance with the TDP.

However, the setbacks didn't stop KCR's political rise. He made use of the opportunity of a weak leadership following the death of Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy in a chopper crash in 2009 to resurrect the movement for statehood, by going on a fast-unto-death on November 29. The Centre first gave in to the TRS's demand with an announcement that the process of state formation would begin soon, but only to backtrack two weeks later.

The Centre's decision to go back on its December 9 announcement triggered mass protests in support of statehood with KCR being at its helm. The TRS, which had only two members in the Lok Sabha, garnered support from three dozen political parties for its cause with the Congress-led UPA Government finally getting the Bill passed in in February 2014.

When the new State was formed, KCR became its undisputable leader and Chief Minister. Almost nine years after he assumed office, KCR retains a strong grip on both the party and the government. "KCR has no other vocation but politics. He thinks about development and welfare of Telangana and plans and executes schemes and projects like a Chief Executive Officer," said B. Vinod Kumar, Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Board.

In recent years, the Chief Minister has started showing interest in national politics as well. In 2019, he floated the idea of a Federal Front as an alternative to the Congress and the BJP. His party won nine out the 17 seats it contested that year. Last year, KCR changed the party's name to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), openly stating its national ambitions. Last week, he brought together three other Chief Ministers – Delhi's Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab's Bhagwant Singh Mann and Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan – for a mega rally in Khammam. Akhilesh Yadav, former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, and D. Raja, of the CPI, were also present. At the rally he slammed the BJP, which won four out of the 17 seats from the State in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections . KCR's goals are clear – he wants to counter the BJP at home and build a federal alternative at the Centre. Whether he would be successful remains to be seen.

INBRIEF

UltraTech Cement Q3 net falls 38% as expenditure surges

UltraTech Cement reported a 38% decrease in quarterly profit on Saturday, dented by a surge in expenses. Profit for the three months through December fell to ₹10.62 billion from ₹17.10 billion the same period a year earlier, UltraTech said in a filing. Expenses surged to ₹141.23 billion from ₹114.22 billion. Competition is rising in India's cement industry, with manufacturers increasing capacity to stave off the sector's newest entrant, the Adani Group. REUTERS

Spain's Bergner mulls making India a cookware export hub

Bergner Impex (India), part of Spain's Bergner, is mulling investments in India to manufacture cookware products and make India an export hub, said Bhushan Mankame, Associate Vice-President Sales. Mr. Mankame, who was here to introduce Bergner products, said the plan is to invest within a year to manufacture in India, though it depended on several other factors. The company plans to make its appliances available at retail stores within four months.

IDFC First Bank Q3 net profit doubles on operating income

IDFC First Bank reported a twofold jump in net profit to ₹605 crore for the quarter ended December, driven by growth in operating income. Total income increased to ₹7,064.30 crore from ₹5,197.79 crore, IDFC First Bank said in a filing. Customer deposits increased by 44% to ₹1,23,578 crore. On asset quality, the bank said gross NPAs improved from 3.96% to 2.96%. Net NPAs at quarter ended December improved to 1.03% from 1.74% in the year-earlier period. Net interest income grew 27% to ₹3,285 crore. PTI

ICICI Bank Q3 net jumps 34% to ₹8,312 cr., loan growth aids

Private lender's overall loan portfolio grew by 19.7%, with retail loans expanding by 23.4%; the gross NPA ratio declined to 3.07% as on Dec. 31, from 3.19% on Sept. 30 and 4.13% on Dec. 31, 2021

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

ICICI Bank reported third-quarter standalone net profit grew 34.2% to ₹8,312 crore backed by a rise in net interest income (NII) and growth in its loan portfolio.

Core operating profit (profit before provisions and tax, excluding treasury income) rose 31.6% to ₹13,235 crore. NII grew 34.6% to ₹16,465 crore. The net interest margin widened to 4.65%, from 3.96% a year earlier.

Overall loan portfolio grew by 19.7%, with the domestic loan portfolio expanding by 21.4%.

Provisions (excluding provision for tax) rose 12.5% to ₹2,257 crore. "During the quarter, the bank has changed its provisioning norms on non-performing assets to make them more conservative," said Executive Director Sandeep Batra. "This change resulted in higher provisions amounting to ₹1,196 crore in Q3-2023."

Retail loans grew by 23.4% and comprised 54.3% of the total loan portfolio on December 31.

ICICI Bank said the gross NPA ratio declined to 3.07% as on December 31, from 3.19% at September 30, 2022, and 4.13% at December 31, 2021.

Exports, EVs, new products to drive growth: Brakes India

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Sriram Viji

Brakes India is aiming at widening market share by leveraging on innovation, introduction of new products, tapping the growing electric-vehicle segment and overseas expansion, said Sriram Viji, MD.

"Over 25 new components in the air-brake system have been developed over the course of the past few years, and we are going into mass production with large original equipment manufacturers of well-known brands in the next few months," he said in an interview.

As one of the largest braking-system suppliers, Brakes India has been showcasing its latest products and air braking product range such as 'Motor on Drum brakes,' at several international fora.

"From wheels and brakes we typically manufacture, we have gone into the entire pneumatic or air braking system," said Mr. Viji. "So, there are a lot of components we have showcased recently.

"We are working on several new products that would bring innovation, meeting global standards because we are looking at not just Indian but also global requirements," he said.

Revenue growth

The firm is expected to post an overall growth of 15-20% in revenue in FY23 and about 20% in exports. While the total revenue is in excess of ₹5,000 crore, export orders are worth almost ₹1,500 crore.

On capex, Mr. Viji said that Brakes India typically invests ₹200-250 crore a year. In the coming years, it would get enhanced to meet capacity requirements. Besides, the company is actively exploring new capacities in terms of the iron casting and foundry business.

About EV braking systems for commercial vehicles, he said a lot of investment would be made with a focus on product development.

On exports, he said the firm already had contracts in Southeast Asia, while business development activities were ongoing across North America, Europe and Southeast Asia.

Stating that the foundry business had been seeing very strong growth, he said they were holding discussions internally as well as with the government on putting up new capacities.

"There is a positive energy in the firm right now which will drive our development over the next five years," he said. "This is also supported by the significant recovery in the auto market across segments combined with our growing export order book."

Kotak Bank Q3 net surges 31% as interest income rises

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Kotak Mahindra Bank's standalone profit rose 31% to ₹2,792 crore for the quarter ended December, aided by an improvement in net interest income.

Total income increased to ₹11,099 crore from ₹8,260 crore in the year-ago period, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

Net Interest Income (NII) for Q3FY23 increased by 30% to ₹5,653 crore.

Gross NPAs declined to 1.90% (2.71%) and net NPAs to 0.43% (0.79%).

Yes Bank Q3 net dives 79% on provisions; to appeal in SC on bonds

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Yes Bank on Saturday reported third-quarter consolidated net profit dived 79% to ₹55.07 crore on higher provisions for legacy bad assets.

The lender also said it would appeal against the Bombay High Court's order in the ₹8,400-crore AT-1 bonds case of 2020, citing strong legal grounds.

It reported an 11.7% jump in the core net interest income at ₹1,971 crore on the back of 10% advances growth and a 0.10% expansion in the net interest margin at 2.5%.

Non-interest income rose 55.8% to ₹1,143 crore. Overall provisions rose to ₹845 crore, from ₹375 crore. Gross slippages stood at ₹1,610 crore. The bank has recovered over ₹4,300 crore loans till now.

Footwear units worried over planned BIS norms

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The footwear industry is concerned over the government's plan to make BIS standards mandatory for the sector from July 1.

V. Noushad, president of Confederation of Indian Footwear Industries, said with plans to make the standards mandatory for all footwear, except handmade ones and those made by units with less than ₹50 lakh turnover, the industry is worried. "The standards should not affect creativity of the industry," he said.

Sport

Big wins for Sohil Shah, Arjun Narendran; Sandeep Kumar shines

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Thrilled: Sandeep Kumar achieved a double in the Volkswagen Polo Cup by winning both races on Saturdays. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sohil Shah from Bengaluru and Coimbatore's Arjun Narendran won their respective races in the two premier categories, the MRF Formula 2000 and the Indian Touring Cars in the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2022 at the Madras International Circuit, here on Saturday.

Defending champion, Bengaluru's 19-year-old Tijil Rao (Momentum Motorsports) won the Formula LGB 1300 race that was red-flagged after five laps following a crash involving two cars. Meanwhile, Chennai's Sandeep Kumar achieved a double in the Volkswagen Polo Cup by winning both races on Saturdays.

The results (Provisional):
MRF F2000 (Race-1, 8 laps): 1. Sohil Shah (Bengaluru) (12mins, 27.972sec); 2. Mohamed Ryan (Chennai) (12:31.048); 3. T. Sai Sanjay (Salem) (12:36.671).
Indian Touring Cars (Race-1, 10 laps): 1. Arjun Narendran (Coimbatore, Arka Motorsports) (18:56.144); 2. Sandeep Kumar (Chennai, Rayo Racing) (19:03.394); 3. Jeet Jabakh (Hyderabad, Rayo Racing) (19:22.955).
Indian Junior Touring Cars (Race-1, 10 laps): 1. Raja Rajan (Chennai, Performance Racing) (19:30.161); 2. Deepak Ravikumar (Chennai, Performance Racing) (19:31.523); 3. Gurunath Meiyappan (Chennai, Race Concepts) (19:31.882).
Super Stock (Race-1, 9 laps): 1. Ritesh Rai (Chennai, Performance Racing) (18:59.178); 2. Narendran S (Chennai, Redline Racing) (19:15.744); 3. Dilijith TS (Thrissur, DTS Racing) (19:16.928).
MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios) (Race-1, 8 laps): 1. Justin Singh (Gurugram) (16:31.126); 2. Diana Pundole (Pune) (16:36.109); 3. Zahan Commissariat (Mumbai) (16:44.802).
Formula LGB 1300 (Race-1, 5 laps): 1. Tijil Rao (Bengaluru, Momentum Motorsports) (09:35.064); 2. Viswas Vijayraj (Nellore, DTS Racing) (09:35.418); 3. Vinith Kumar (Tirupur, DTS Racing) (09:35.871).
Volkswagen Polo Cup (Race-1, 8 laps): 1. Sandeep Kumar (Chennai) (15:43.450); 2. Pratik Sonawane (Mumbai) (15:49.732); 3. Jeet Jabakh (Hyderabad) (15:51.490).
Race-2 (10 laps): 1. Sandeep Kumar (Chennai) (19:47.287); 2. Raaj Bakharu (Mumbai) (19:54.806); 3. Pratik Sonawane (Mumbai) (19:55.983).

Yesterday carries the day in the T. Chandrasekhar Reddy Memorial Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer L.V.R. Deshmukh's ward Yesterday, ridden by P. Ajeeth Kumar, won the T. Chandrasekhar Reddy Memorial Cup, the main event of Saturday's (Jan. 21) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey & Mrs. Lingala Aarti Reddy.

1. THE KHAMAM PLATE: GOLDEN GAZELLE (Ashad Asbar) 1, Miss Maya (Akshay Kumar) 2, Huntingdon (Afroz Khan) 3 and Miracle Mary (Abhay Singh) 4. 1-1/4, 1/2 and 5-3/4. 1m, 12.61s. ₹54 (w), 13, 11 and 11 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 37, SHW: 17 and 10, FP: 133, Q: 35, Tanala: 261. Favourite: Miss Maya. Owners: Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta & M/s. Mukteshwar Racing LLP. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

2. INDIAN NAVY ROLLING CHALLENGE TROPHY: ABOVE THE LAW (Ajay Kumar) 1, Bangor On Dee (Akshay Kumar) 2, Stag's Leap (D.S. Deora) 3 and Ice Berry (Md. Ekram Alam) 4. 3/4, 3/4 and Shd 1m, 11.57s. ₹136 (w), 16, 11 and 13 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 56, SHW: 46 and 11, FP: 518, Q: 124, Tanala: 669. Favourite: Bangor On Dee. Owner: Mr. Rakesh Reddy Kondakalla. Trainer: Robin Reddy Kondakalla.

3. YADADRI PLATE (DIV. I): SILK (Sonu Kumar) 1, Its On (D.S. Deora) 2, Pedro Planet (Rafique Sk.) 3 and Eastern Blaze (B. Nikhil) 4. 2, 2-1/2 and 2-1/2. 1m, 12.82s. ₹67 (w), 14, 10 and 24 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 68. SHW: 19 and 12, FP: 169, Q: 41, Tanala: 721. Favourite: Its On. Owner: Mr. Maddali Sai Kumar. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.

4. YADADRI PLATE (DIV. II): STAY SMART (Shivansh) 1, Protocol (Md. Ismail) 2 Deccan Ranger (Afroz Khan) 3 and Apex Star (G. Naresh) 4. Nose, 2-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 13.23s. ₹18 (w), 10, 17 and 16 (p). SHP: 44, THP: 45, SHW: 13 and 42, FP: 104, Q: 72, Tanala: 435. Favourite: Stay Smart. Owner: Kunwar Digvijay Singh Shekhawat. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

5. JANGAON PLATE: SPORTING SMILE (R.S. Jodha) 1, Pancho (Shivansh) 2, Saint Emilion (B. Nikhil) 3 and Red River (Md. Ekram Alam) 4. Not run: Blue Label. 1, 4 and 4. 1m, 14.21s. ₹66 (w), 15, 15 and 16 (p). SHP: 44, THP: 44, SHW: 25 and 20, FP: 309, Q: 157, Tanala: 879. Favourite: Saint Emilion. Owner: M.A.M. Ramswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

6. T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY MEMORIAL CUP: YESTERDAY (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, N R I Superpower (Akshay Kumar) 2, Super Angel (Abhay Singh) 3 and Kesariya Balam (Sonu Kumar) 4. 5-1/4, 2 and 1. 2m, 35.36s. ₹19 (w), 10 and 14 (p). SHP: 25, THP: 56, SHW: 11 and 12, FP: 32, Q: 15, Tanala: 122. Favourite: N R I Superpower. Owners: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey & Mrs. Lingala Aarti Reddy. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

7. SURYAPET PLATE: HERO OF THE EAST (Akshay Kumar) 1, Carnival Lady (Gaurav Singh) 2, Exclusive Spark (Md. Ismail) 3 and Voice Of A Dream (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 3-3/4, 2-1/4 and Nk. 2m, 9.64s. ₹25 (w), 12, 16 and 14 (p). SHP: 43, THP: 55, SHW: 15 and 26, FP: 103, Q: 65, Tanala: 199. Favourite: Hero Of The East. Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Mr. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹7,264 (29 tkts.) & 30%: 1,157 (78 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 1,920 (16 tkts.), (ii) 1,228 (27 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 3,686 (10 tkts.), (ii) 1,368 (50 tkts.).

Praggnanandhaa, Arjun stay unbeaten; Gukesh loses; first victory for Vaishali

TATA STEEL CHESS

Sports Bureau

R. Praggnanandhaa held fellow teenager and leader Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan to a draw in the Masters section sixth round of the Tata Steel chess tournament at Wijk aan Zee on Friday.

Arjun Erigaisi and D. Gukesh ran into joint-second placed Anish Giri and Fabiano Caruana. Arjun drew for the sixth successive round but Gukesh lost.

In the challengers section, R. Vaishali (2) posted her first victory while B. Adhiban (3) maintained his sequence of draws.

The results:
Masters: Sixth round: Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 4.5) drew with R. Praggnanandhaa (3.5); Anish Giri (Ned, 4) drew with Arjun Erigaisi (2.5).

Fabiano Caruana (USA, 4) bt D. Gukesh (1.5); Ding Liren (Chn, 3) drew with Levon Aronian (USA, 3.5).

Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 2) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 2.5); Richard Rapport (Rom, 2.5) drew with Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri, 3); Wesley So (USA, 3.5) bt Vincent Keymer (Ger, 1.5).

Fifth-round: Praggnanandhaa drew with Anish; Arjun drew with Ding; Gukesh drew with Rapport; Carlsen lost to Abdusattorov; Aronian bt Keymer.

Maghsoodloo bt Foreest; Caruana drew with So.

Challengers: Sixth round: Velimir Ivic (Ser, 4) drew with B. Adhiban (3); Jergus Pechac (Svk, 0.5) lost to R. Vaishali (2).

Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur, 4.5) drew with Thomas Beerdsen (Ned, 3.5); Eline Roebers (Ned, 2) lost to Alexander Doncheno (Ger, 4.5).

Luis Supi (Bra, 3) drew with Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 4); Abhimanyu Mishra (USA, 2.5) drew with Amin Tabatabaei (Iri, 3).

Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 3) bt Max Warmerdam (Ned, 2.5).

Drab draw leaves Liverpool and Chelsea still mired in mid-table

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LIVERPOOL

Liverpool and Chelsea's poor seasons were summed up in a dismal 0-0 draw at Anfield on Saturday that did little to aid their chances of climbing into the Premier League's top four.

A point apiece leaves both clubs nine points adrift of the Champions League places and there was little to suggest either can quickly rekindle its former glories to make a charge up the table.

Chelsea had a goal scored by Kai Havertz ruled out for offside early on. But the Blues remain in 10th without an away league win since October.

Early celebration: Chelsea had a goal scored by Kai Havertz ruled out for offside early on. AFP

Liverpool edges up to eighth, above Brentford on goal difference.

Jurgen Klopp described Liverpool's 3-0 defeat to Brighton last weekend as the worst performance of his eight years at Anfield and, in the 1,000th game of his managerial career, made sweeping changes with Fabinho, Jordan Henderson and Trent Alexander-Arnold among those left on the bench.

The change in personnel did little to ignite a drastically improved performance.

The result: Premier League: Liverpool 0 drew with Chelsea 0; Bournemouth 1 (Anthony 28) drew with Nottingham Forest 1 (Surridge 83); Leicester 2 (Albrighton 38, Barnes 63) drew with Brighton 2 (Mitoma 27, Ferguson 88); Southampton 0 lost to Aston Villa 1 (Watkins 77); West Ham 2 (Bowen 34, 42) bt Everton 0.

La Liga: Espanyol 1 (Braithwaite 43) bt Real Betis 0.

Bundesliga: Frankfurt 3 (Lindstrom 22, Borre Amaury 84, Buta 90+1) bt Schalke 0; Wolfsburg 6 (Wimmer 1, Wind 27, 37, Gerhardt 56, Baku 81, Waldschmidt 90+5-pen) bt Freiburg 0. **Friday:** Leipzig 1 (Halstenberg 52) drew with Bayern Munich 1 (Choupo-Moting 37).

REVERSE FOR INDIA

Australia posts thumping win over India in U-19 World Cup

Australia beat India by seven wickets in a Women's U-19 T20 World Cup match at Potchefstroom, South Africa, on Saturday. India was shot out for 87 runs and Australia won with 37 balls to spare.
The scores: India 87 in 18.5 overs (Sianna Ginger 3/13) lost to Australia 88/3 in 13.5 overs (Claire Moore 25 n.o., Amy Smith 26 n.o.).

CALLING IT QUITS

Dan Christian to retire after ongoing BBL

Australia's most experienced T20 cricketer Dan Christian announced that the ongoing Big Bash League will be his last tournament, calling it quits on a glittering career spanning 17 years. "Yesterday (Friday) at training I told my Sydney Sixers teammates that I'll be retiring from playing at the end of the BBL season," he tweeted.

NEW SEASON

Gayle, Pathan and Panesar to play in LLC Masters in Doha

Chris Gayle, Irfan Pathan, Asghar Afghan, Dilhara Fernando and Monty Panesar have confirmed their participation in the Legends League Cricket Masters season, which will be played from February 27 to March 8. Raman Raheja, Co-Founder & CEO, said, " We are trying to make the upcoming season a truly global event."

BOOST

Leicester signs left-back Kristiansen from Copenhagen

Leicester has bolstered its defensive options in a bid to remain in the Premier League with the signing of Danish full-back Victor Kristiansen from FC Copenhagen. The 20-year-old left-back has signed a five-and-a-half-year deal and will join the Foxes subject to international clearance.

Indian hopes largely hinge on Harmanpreet coming good

The skipper's form has been directly proportional to host's ascent through the ranks; recent head-to-head record against New Zealand favours Reid's men; Rajkumar to take Hardik's place

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

Key factor: It would stand India in good stead if Harmanpreet gets more consistent in breaching the opposition's defence during penalty corners. BISWARANJAN ROUT

A misfiring forward line, a struggling drag-flicker and a key playmaker out with injury will be among the concerns for India when it takes the field against New Zealand for a quarterfinal spot here on Sunday. Despite these, there will be several reasons for the host to be favourite and only one to guard against – itself.

For one, there will be no permutations to worry about for the host, something that clearly bothered the Indian players against Wales even when coach Graham Reid insisted there was no pressure from him. A win is all that is needed and such clarity of purpose works for the Indian team.

Then there is the recent history between the two sides. The last time the Black Sticks beat India in a major competition was at the 2018 Commonwealth Games semifinal. The only other time India has lost to the currently 12th ranked side in the last five years in 13 times was at the Olympic test event in 2019, when Sam Lane stuck in the dying seconds. Lane is still around but the last two matches in the Pro League, both at this very venue, went comfortably India's way.

The crowd will be cheering the home side on but the biggest hope for the team will be Harmanpreet Singh coming good with his flicks. The India captain has looked a shadow of his natural self, unable to either find the angles or the power to breach the opposition defence during penalty corners.

Even though his first goal in the competition, against Wales, came without a goalkeeper, the team will be hoping it helps get rid of any mental block and will start fighting. His form has been directly proportional to India's gradual ascent through the ranks and India needs its skipper to start firing.

An injured Hardik Singh's official exclusion from the remaining games means Rajkumar Pal will be directly thrown in a pressure situation, although the talented youngster has proven himself more than competent.

Clear emphasis

That the team management preferred to bring in a young striker as replacement instead of the more tested Jugraj Singh, who could also act as an option to Harmanpreet, shows the team's faith in both its captain and its defence. It also speaks of the team's clear emphasis on scoring more.

A limping Mandeep Singh walking out during the team practice on the eve of the game only makes Rajkumar's inclusion more vital.

New Zealand, struggling to find its rhythm, will also be hoping to do better than it has done so far with a tighter defence and more control of the ball. India will need to guard against it coming out attacking and taking early control, allowing too much space to veteran Simon Child to create chances and conceding PCs for Kane Russell.

Sunday's crossovers: Malaysia vs Spain (4.30 p.m.), India vs New Zealand (7 p.m.).

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik releases *Sportstar*'s book on Indian hockey

SPORTS BUREAU

Collector's edition: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik releases *Hockey & India — A Golden Legacy* in the presence of *Sportstar* Editor Ayon Sengupta. BISWARANJAN ROUT

For a sport synonymous with Indian identity, hockey's glory has not been highlighted as much as it should be. An effort to do so is *Hockey & India – A Golden Legacy* by *Sportstar* that was released by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at his residence in Bhubaneswar on Saturday.

Former India captain and president of Hockey India Dilip Tirkey graced the occasion. Rourkela and Bhubaneswar in Odisha are hosting the ongoing men's Hockey World Cup and the State, in recent years, has been one of the biggest supporters of the sport.

R. Vineel Krishna, Special Secretary to CM and Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Sports & Youth Services, Ayon Sengupta, Editor *Sportstar*, and Sridhar Arnala, Vice-President (Sales and Distribution) The Hindu Group of Publications, were also present.

The book celebrates Indian hockey as it traces the roots of the game and its growth in India through the ages. The hardbound book, filled with some of the rarest pictures of both people and places associated with Indian hockey, chronicles India's eight gold medals at the Olympics and the epoch-making triumph in the 1975 World Cup, apart from an overall view of both tournaments.

'The Legends' section is packed with stories of some of the biggest superstars of Indian hockey, including Dhanraj Pillay and Dilip Tirkey, and some deserving but not-so-well known ones like Roop Singh, Udham Singh and Surjit Singh. The biggest of them all, Dhyan Chand, deservedly sits on top of the Roll of Honour.

A highlight of the book is the section on Indian women players over the ages – from Elvira Britto and Selma D'Silva to modern queens like Pritam Siwach and Rani Rampal.

With 192-pages of old and new pictures from 1928 to the present, the book is a collector's edition for everyone in general and aficionados of Indian sports in particular.

Pace pack demolishes New Zealand line-up, India clinches ODI series with runaway win

NZ IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
RAIPUR

On winning the toss, India captain Rohit Sharma paused in thought, trying to remember whether the think-tank had decided to bat or bowl. But his pace quartet had no such problems when it came to its plans against the New Zealand batters.

Celebrations

Not only did Mohammed Shami & Co. remember the plans but also executed them to perfection on Saturday afternoon to ensure *Chhattisgarhiyas* celebrated the arrival of international cricket with an India win.

On a dampish pitch that was offering assistance in plenty, India's pacers rattled the Black Caps in the PowerPlay. From 15 for five, there was no way back for the Kiwis. Another mini-collapse, with the spinners being wreckers-in-chief, then skittled out New Zealand for a paltry 108 in the 35th over.

It took India a little over 20 overs to overhaul the target, losing Rohit, who scored a sterling fifty, and Virat Kohli en route.

The game, though, was set up by the pacers early on, with Shami starring with a double blow up front. The veteran pacer exhibited his speciality of bowling full and pitching it on the seam in plenty.

Watching the master at work, Mohammed Siraj, the protege also joined in, with Shardul Thakur and Hardik Pandya following the same template.

Shami was literally unplayable. He ended Finn Allen's stay off the fifth ball of the match, sneaking through his defence and crashing into the stumps. With the runs hard to come by, Siraj was rewarded in the sixth over as Henry Nicholls edged a fuller ball to Shubman Gill in the slip cordon.

Four balls later, Daryl Mitchell offered Shami a return catch on one that stopped slightly.

In the last over of the PowerPlay overs, Hardik Pandya took a stunning one-handed return catch, bending low on his follow-through, to dismiss Devon Conway.

Writing on the wall

When skipper Tom Latham pushed hard at one from Shardul Thakur that moved slightly away, Gill was in action again and the writing was clear on the wall.

Shami then came back for a second burst from the other end to see off the dangerous Michael Bracewell with a short-ball before Glenn Phillips and Mitchell Santner put on 47 for the seventh wicket.

The last four wickets fell for five runs to bring the innings to a close 15 overs before schedule.

Rohit then entertained the sea of blue, with more than 60,000 fans in attendance, with a quickfire fifty.

His pull shots were a treat to watch that ensured India crossed the line well in time for the fans to take the long route back home.

Captain's delight! Shami, the day's wrecker-in-chief, is congratulated by skipper Rohit. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND

Finn Allen b Shami 0 *(5b)*, Devon Conway c & b Hardik 7 *(16b, 1x4)*, Henry Nicholls c Gill b Siraj 2 *(20b)*, Daryl Mitchell c & b Shami 1 *(3b)*, Tom Latham c Gill b Shardul 1 *(17b)*, Glenn Phillips c Suryakumar b Washington 36 *(52b, 5x4)*, Michael Bracewell c Kishan b Shami 22 *(30b, 4x4)*, Mitchell Santner b Hardik 27 *(39b, 3x4)*, Henry Shipley (not out) 2 *(9b)*, Lockie Ferguson c Suryakumar b Washington 1 *(9b)*, Blair Tickner lbw b Kuldeep 2 *(7b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-5): 7; Total (in 34.3 overs): 108.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Allen, 0.5 overs), 2-8 (Nicholls, 5.3), 3-9 (Mitchell, 6.1), 4-15 (Conway, 9.4), 5-15 (Latham, 10.3), 6-56 (Bracewell, 18.3), 7-103 (Santner, 30.1), 8-103 (Phillips, 31.1), 9-105 (Ferguson, 33.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Shami 6-1-18-3, Siraj 6-1-10-1, Shardul 6-1-26-1, Hardik 6-3-16-2, Kuldeep 7.3- 0-29-1, Washington 3-1-7-2.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma lbw b Shipley 51 *(50b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Shubman Gill (not out) 40 *(53b, 6x4)*, Virat Kohli st. Latham b Santner 11 *(9b, 2x4)*, Ishan Kishan (not out) 8 *(9b, 2x4)*; Extras (lb-1): 1; Total (for two wkts. in 20.1 overs): 111.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-72 (Rohit, 14.2), 2-98 (Kohli, 18.1).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Ferguson 5-0-21-0, Shipley 5-0-29-1, Tickner 4-0-19-0, Santner 4.1-0-28-1, Bracewell 2-0-13-0.

Toss: India.

Player-of-the-Match: Shami.

India won by eight wickets with 29.5 overs remaining to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in three-match series.

Third and final ODI: January 24, Indore, 1.30 p.m.

Djokovic fights his way past Dimitrov; Murray bows out

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic's hamstring just about held up as the hot favourite reached the Australian Open last 16 on Saturday. But Andy Murray's heroic run ended in typically defiant style.

An ailing Djokovic had heavy strapping and needed treatment twice on his troublesome left hamstring before defeating Grigor Dimitrov 7-6(7), 6-3, 6-4 on Rod Laver Arena. The Serb will face home hope Alex de Minaur for a place in the quarterfinals.

Feeling the effects

Djokovic's fellow 35-year-old Murray will not join him in the next round, however, as the Briton's Friday 4:05 a.m. finish eventually caught up with him. Murray lost to 24th-seeded Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut 6-1, 6-7(7), 6-3, 6-4.

Also in the men's draw, fifth seed Andrey Rublev surged into a clash with Holger Rune, beating Dan Evans 6-4, 6-2, 6-3. Rune beat unseeded Frenchman Ugo Humbert 6-4, 6-2, 7-6(5).

In the women's section, Belarusian fifth seed Aryna Sabalenka blew away 26th-seeded Elise Mertens 6-2, 6-3 to set up a clash with Olympic champion Belinda Bencic.

Thirtieth seed Karolina Pliskova and 23rd seed Zhang Shuai also went through in straight sets.

Also into the fourth round is the 17-year-old Linda Fruhvirtova, who beat her fellow Czech Marketa Vondrousova in three sets.

French fourth seed Caroline Garcia fought back after a disastrous first set to beat World No. 158 Laura Siegemund 1-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Surreal! Fruhvirtova is elated at the opportunity to say 'Hi second week!' AP

Fallen seeds
Men: 25-Evans, 27-Dimitrov
Women: 19-Alexandrova, 26-Mertens

THE RESULTS

Men: Third round:

5-Rublev bt 25-Evans (GBR) 6-4, 6-2, 6-3; 9-Rune (Den) bt Humbert (Fra) 6-4, 6-2, 7-6(5); 22-de Minaur (Aus) bt Bonzi (Fra) 7-6(0), 6-2, 6-1; Wolf (USA) bt Mmoh (USA) 6-4, 6-1, 6-2; Paul (USA) bt Brooksby (USA) 6-1, 6-4, 6-3;

4-Djokovic (Srb) bt 27-Dimitrov (Bul) 7-6(7), 6-3, 6-4; Shelton (USA) bt Popyrin (Aus) 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-4; 24-Agut (Esp) bt Murray (GBR) 6-1, 6-7(7), 6-3, 6-4.

Women: Third round:

30-Pliskova (Cze) bt Gracheva 6-4, 6-2; 23-Zhang (Chn) bt Volynets (USA) 6-3, 6-2;

5-Sabalenka (Blr) bt 26-Mertens (Bel) 6-2, 6-3; 12-Bencic (Sui) bt Giorgi (Ita) 6-2, 7-5; Vekic (Cro) bt Diaz (Esp) 6-2, 6-2; Fruhvirtova (Cze) bt Vondrousova (Cze);

4-Garcia (Fra) bt Siegemund (Ger) 1-6, 6-3, 6-3; Linette (Pol) bt 19-Alexandrova 6-3, 6-4.

INBRIEF

Arsenal seals swoop for Brighton forward Trossard

Mikel Arteta expects Arsenal forward Leandro Trossard to make an immediate impact after the Belgium forward signed from Brighton for a reported £27 million on Friday. Trossard agreed a "long-term" contract as Arsenal bolstered its attacking options in a bid to win the title for the first time since 2004.

India beats South Africa 4-0, continues winning streak

The Indian women's hockey team continued its winning ways in South Africa as it defeated hosts 4-0 in the third match of the tour in Cape Town. Rani Rampal (2nd), Deep Grace Ekka (18th), Vandana Katariya (20th) and Sangita Kumari (46th) were the scorers. India now has an unassailable 3-0 lead in the four-match Test series.

Italian FA penalises Juventus in suspect transfer trial

Juventus has been docked 15 points for using transfers to artificially boost its balance sheet, the Italian Football Federation said on Friday. It also handed out long bans to the club's former leadership, including ex-chairman Andrea Agnelli, after reopening a trial which had ended last year with Juve being acquitted. The ruling follows new evidence from a separate criminal trial into the Serie A team's finances.

LIVE TELECAST

Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3 & 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.
NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8.30 a.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
Hockey World Cup: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 4.30 & 7 p.m.
Serie A: Jio Cinema App, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday).
LaLiga: Jio Cinema App, 6.30, 8.45 & 11 p.m.; Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Monday).
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.

Vitidsarn overcomes Ginting, to meet Axelsen in final

In the women's last-four, Korea's An Se Young claws her way past fourth seed He Bing Jiao of China 11-21, 21-16, 21-16 in a memorable match to set up a title clash with Yamaguchi

INDIA OPEN

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Staying cool: Vitidsarn prevailed over Ginting in a cracker of a contest. R.V. MOORTHY

Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand fought hard to beat Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia 27-25, 21-15 in the semifinals of the $900,000 Yonex Sunrise India Open badminton championship here on Saturday.

In a cracker of a duel in the first game, the eighth-seeded Kunlavut saved a game point and converted the seventh game point to gain a stranglehold.

Errors

Ginting, the crowd favourite, tried hard to get a hold on the match, but after being 15-13 in the second game, he was unable to control the errors against the fluency of the Thai.

Dominant

In the final, Kunlavut will face the reigning World and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen who was expectedly dominant as he dismissed the fourth seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia 21-6, 21-12.

In the women's section, 20-year-old An Se Young of Korea showed why she has been able to win 11 world tour titles at such an young age, as she clawed her way past fourth seed He Bing Jiao of China 11-21, 21-16, 21-16 in a memorable match.

Getting better with every point, the second-seeded Korean had a decisive turn of fortunes when she had a successful challenge to go up 14-12 in the third game. The Chinese did equalise, but An Se Young was at her classy best in the climax, with her confident touch and crisp strokes.

In the final, the young Korean will challenge the top seed, two-time World Champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan.

The 25-year-old Yamaguchi was content to operate on a low gear for the most part, but made sure to stay ahead against Supanida Katethong of Thailand, in pulling off a 21-17, 21-14 win.

The results (semifinals):

Men: Viktor Axelsen (Den) bt Jonatan Christie (Ina) 21-6, 21-12; Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Tha) bt Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Ina) 27-25, 21-15.

Women: Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) bt Supanida Katethong (Tha) 21-17, 21-14; An Se Young (Kor) bt He Bing Jiao (Chn) 11-21, 21-16, 21-16.

Wrestlers call off protest, WFI chief to step aside

Sports Bureau

The protesting wrestlers ended their demonstration following assurances from Union Sports Minister Anrag Thakur late on Friday.

The wrestlers, who leveled charges of arbitrariness, mismanagement and sexual harassment, especially against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and some coaches, met Thakur in Delhi late in the night.

Committee to be formed

Through a statement, Thakur announced the formation of an Oversight Committee which would "enquire the allegations made by the prominent wrestlers of sexual misconduct, financial irregularities and administrative lapses, undertake day-to-day administration of the WFI and revisit issues raised by the athletes.

"The committee will complete the enquiry in four weeks.

"Till then the WFI president will step aside from day-to-day functioning and (sic) he has assured to cooperate in the investigation."

IOA panel

The Indian Olympic Association has also formed a seven-member panel, led by boxer M.C. Mary Kom, upon receiving a letter from the wrestlers.

On Saturday, the WFI, in an explanation in response to the Sports Ministry's letter, said the protest by the wrestlers was part of a "larger conspiracy to malign and defame" its president with a "vested interest". Rejecting allegations of sexual harassment, the WFI said it has a five-member 'Sexual Harassment Committee', including Olympic medallist Sakshi Malik, and no complaint has been received by the panel. The sitting management of WFI "does not allow whims and fancies of anyone".

The Ministry on Saturday asked the WFI to suspend all ongoing activities, including cancellation of the Ranking Tournament in Gonda, until the Overseas Committee is formally appointed and takes over.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Mekhala, right, scored 17 points for Karnataka.

Mekhala and Aadhya star in Karnataka's win

Mekhala Gowda and Aadhya Gowda (17 points each) helped host Karnataka defeat Andhra Pradesh 68-56 in the women's section of the 72nd junior National basketball championships at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday.

Tamil Nadu teams also notched up victories. In the men's section, Tamil Nadu took out Uttarakhand 109-60, while the women's team defeated Uttar Pradesh 87-55.

Important results (group stage): Men: Chandigarh 92 (Abhishek 20, Ibrahim Ali 15, Udit 14, Vaibhav 11) bt Rajasthan 72 (Rahul 20, Mohit 15).
Tamil Nadu 109 (Subinvel 11, Praglathan 10) bt Uttarakhand 60 (Hardik Sharma 20, Priyanshuchand 17).
Punjab 109 (Harmonjoth Singh 36, Bibek Singh 14, Baanu Pratap 11) bt Maharashtra 41 (Sansakar 14).
Uttar Pradesh 80 (Rishab Jaiswar 26, Harsh Dagar 26) bt Andhra Pradesh 60 (Leela Kumar 17, Dwarkanath 13); Madhya Pradesh 133 (Himanshu 16, Suryash Singh 14, Harsh Ahlawat 13, Shivang 12) bt Assam 45.
Women: Punjab 60 (Kavya Singla 20, Manmeet Kaur 15, Shaman Praveen 14) bt Maharashtra 53 (Anaya Bhavsar 18, Swati Wankhede 11, Gunjan Mantri 10).
Karnataka 68 (Mekhala Gowda 17, Aadhya Gowda 17, Niharika Reddy 14, Yashwini 12) bt Andhra Pradesh 56 (Pallavi 15, Tally Anita 12).
Kerala 83 (Aslin Shiju 24, Aleena Jaison 17, Ruth Anna Blessen 10, P.A. Alka 10) bt West Bengal 47 (Diya Hazara 17, Ananya Mondal 12, Smritikana 10).
Madhya Pradesh 123 (Aditi Khadelwal 26, Khushi Pal Singh 23, Samya Wadhwani 23) bt Meghalaya 15. Tamil Nadu 87 (A. Nitika 22, A. Subhashini 11, Sadhana10) bt Uttar Pradesh 55 (Nancy Gupta 17, Kamakhee Choudhary 16).

HMT thumps Bangalore United HC

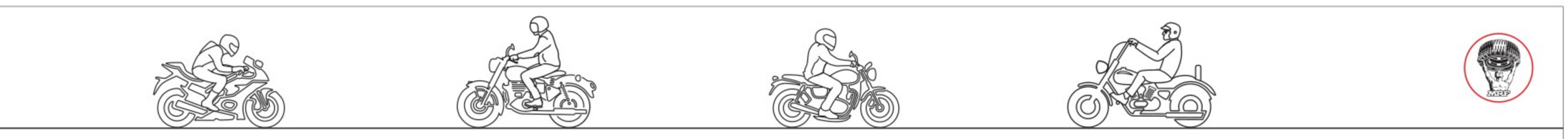
HMT defeated Bangalore United Hockey Club 7-1 in the KSHA 'A' division hockey league in Bengaluru.

The result: HMT 7 (Abhijith 2, Riteesh 14, 22, Teswin 20, 52, Rahul Krishna 40, Akhil 46) bt Bangalore United HC 1 (Vivek Uthappa 7).

CFC, ATK MB play out a goalless draw

ISL-9

Pranay Rajiv
CHENNAI

Chennaiyin FC's winless run extended to five games as it settled for a goalless draw against ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB) in an Indian Super League fixture at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Saturday.

Chennaiyin continues to be eighth, while ATK MB has inched closer to Kerala Blasters in third, with a point separating the two.